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# United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti

## Report of the Secretary-General

## I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2410 (2018), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) until 15 April 2019 and requested me to report to the Council every 90 days on the implementation of the resolution. It covers major developments that have occurred since the issuance of my previous report, on 1 June 2018 (S/2018/527), progress on the benchmarked exit strategy and an update on timelines for the transfer of tasks and responsibilities for handover to the Government, in coordination with the United Nations country team.

## II. Major developments

### A. Political situation and related developments

2. During the reporting period, the fragile political stability of Haiti was tested following an announcement by the Government that it would remove fuel subsidies, which led to a spike in fuel prices and an outbreak of violent protests, primarily in Port-au-Prince, precipitating the resignation of the Prime Minister, Jack Guy Lafontant. The removal of the subsidies was one of the structural reform measures that the Government had agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund as part of a staff-monitored agreement to rationalize expenditure and enhance critical public investment.

3. Before the protests, tensions had been growing between the executive and legislative branches, when 16 parliamentarians from the Chamber of Deputies (the lower chamber) submitted a censure motion against the Prime Minister, alleging government corruption, inefficiency and violation of the Constitution. On 28 June, the vote on the motion was suspended amid uncertainty arising from a letter issued by the Superior Court of Audits and Administrative Disputes, notifying the chamber that four of the five ministers appointed in the government reshuffle of 23 April, including the Minister of Justice and Public Security, had not received certificates attesting to their financial probity, having managed public funds in previous functions, as required by the Constitution.

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4. The protests began on 6 July, seemingly as an expression of public frustration triggered by the increase in fuel prices of 38, 41 and 51 per cent for gasoline, diesel and kerosene. Soon thereafter, hundreds of roadblocks were erected across the country and specific businesses were targeted by acts of vandalism in what appeared to be coordinated action. On 7 July, the Prime Minister announced the immediate, temporary suspension of the removal of the subsidies, which did little to quell the protests. However, by nightfall the President, Jovenel Moïse, called for calm in an address to the nation, whereupon the violence abated and was followed by a general strike on 9 and 10 July. On 9 July, the President initiated talks with political parties, the private sector and the heads of the legislative and judicial branches to seek a solution to the situation.

5. On 13 July, the Security Council called upon all parties to remain calm, exercise restraint and avoid acts that could contribute to instability. Tensions and threats of further protests subsided when the Prime Minister announced his resignation on 14 July during a session convened to debate a vote of no confidence in the lower chamber. In an address to the nation, the President confirmed that he had accepted the resignation of the Prime Minister and his Government and committed himself to consulting all sectors to form a new, inclusive Government to combat poverty and develop agriculture, energy and infrastructure. On 17 July, he began formal consultations for the appointment of a new Prime Minister, meeting among others the heads of the parliament and representatives of religious groups and the private sector. On 5 August, he signed a presidential order appointing a well-known political figure and former presidential candidate, Jean Henry Céant, as the new Prime Minister. At the time of writing, the holding of the vote of confidence on the Prime Minister-designate's policy statement had yet to be held in the parliament.

6. Activity in the parliament was characterized by marked absenteeism and limited legislative action in both chambers. On 3 July, the Senate adopted two draft laws, on the promotion of culture and on access for persons with disabilities to buildings and facilities, which were transmitted to the executive for promulgation. On 4 July, the Senate adopted a draft law on the supervision of teachers, which was sent to the lower chamber for further consideration and vote. On 24 July, the lower chamber adopted a draft law on the creation of a fund for persons with disabilities and a draft organic law of the Ministry of the Environment. On 7 August, the Senate adopted a draft law on the creation, organization and functioning of the National Council on Legal Aid, which is to be sent to the lower chamber.

7. On 11 July, the temporary suspension of the removal of fuel subsidies led to the recall of the draft 2017/18 budget amendment and the draft 2018/19 budget, submitted to the parliament on 28 June. A retreat of the lower chamber originally scheduled for the period from 6 to 8 July to discuss the draft Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, both pending adoption, was postponed to a date yet to be announced.

8. On 4 July, at the thirty-ninth regular meeting of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community, held in Jamaica from 4 to 6 July, the President of Haiti handed over the rotational chairmanship of the organization to the Prime Minister of Jamaica. The advocacy of the President of Haiti during his tenure led to an agreement on the holding of a special session in February 2019 on the free movement of people, goods, services and capital throughout the Caribbean.

## B. Economic situation

9. The projected economic growth from 1.2 per cent in 2017 to 1.8 per cent in 2018 is unlikely to be achieved, owing to the reversal of the fuel price adjustment. While measures are under review to address the financial shortfall that would be generated

by continued fuel subsidies, without identification of alternate sources of revenue, the expected retrenchment of capital spending, increased financing from the central bank and the accumulation of arrears may affect growth and macroeconomic stability negatively in the short term. The State-owned electricity utility continues to overburden public finances, despite the increase in billing and collection rates recently announced by the authorities. Meanwhile, inflation reached 14 per cent at the end of May.

10. On 2 July, at a meeting of the committee on aid effectiveness, the President called for greater alignment of external cooperation with government priorities. The Government and its financial and technical partners committed themselves to revitalizing three thematic working groups on the rule of law, the legislative agenda and a draft law on aid cooperation and governance. The "mainstreaming, accelerations and policy support" report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), shared with the Minister of Planning and External Cooperation on 24 July, confirmed the continued support of the United Nations system for the Government's efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## C. Humanitarian situation

11. Humanitarian actors continued to help in building the disaster-preparedness capacity of the State through support to the Directorate of Civil Protection. In preparing for the hurricane season, the Directorate revised its national contingency plan, and an emergency fund of $30,000 was allocated to each region in the amended 2017/18 budget. On 2 and 3 August, a simulation exercise, led by the Directorate, was held in the West, South and Nippes Departments to improve the coordination of hurricane emergency operations. From 28 to 30 May, a training session for 60 trainers was held in Port-au-Prince to reinforce the capacity of the regional civil protection structures and the intersectoral disaster preparedness group to undertake multisectoral initial rapid assessments in the event of a disaster. On 27 July, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Directorate jointly led a natural disaster preparedness workshop for protection actors, at which the centrality of protection across all humanitarian sectors was highlighted. From 20 to 24 August, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs held a disaster assessment and coordination training session for national authorities and decentralized State structures.

12. As of June, food and livelihood assistance had been provided to some 460,000 of the 1.13 million Haitians in situations of vulnerability, notably through school feeding programmes. Food availability in markets is expected to improve following the June to August harvest. Nevertheless, the relatively significant rise in international prices for rice and wheat, combined with the risk of a depreciation of the national currency against the dollar, could accentuate the increase already observed in the price of basic commodities, such as imported and local rice.

13. The 2018 humanitarian response plan, the aim of which is to reach 2.2 million Haitians with humanitarian and protection assistance and for which an amount of $252.2 million will be required, had received 9.4 per cent of its funding as at 27 August.

14. Closing the chapter on cholera in Haiti remains a top priority of the United Nations. Under the leadership of my Special Envoy for Haiti, the Organization continues to implement the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti. The downward trend observed since late 2016 is continuing. If progress is maintained, with reliable funding and engagement from all partners, through the hurricane season, which is the riskiest period for spikes in cholera, it will represent another step forward towards the now-achievable goal of zero transmission. During the week of 5 to

11 August, 35 suspected cases were registered, representing an acute decrease from the 18,500 cases per week that were registered by the Ministry of Public Health and Population at the peak of the epidemic. The results are testimony to the leadership of the Government and the relentless work of the United Nations and partners. Furthermore, the implementation of track 2 of the new United Nations approach — developing a community-led consultations model to benefit and support affected communities — is already under way in those communities that were most affected.

15. The return of Haitians remains difficult to monitor. Figures reported by the General Directorate of Migration of the Dominican Republic reveal a substantial increase in the number of deportation cases of Haitians from the Dominican Republic in January 2018, with 12,074 deportations recorded, an increase of 245 per cent from the same period in 2017. It is estimated that over 96,000 Haitians will return voluntarily or through force from the Dominican Republic in 2018. Most deportees arrive in Haiti in precarious conditions, without resources and separated from their families.

## III. Mandate implementation

16. As requested by the Security Council in its resolutions 2350 (2017) and 2410 (2018), MINUJUSTH established a mechanism to monitor progress in the implementation of the benchmarked two-year exit strategy to a non-peacekeeping United Nations presence in the country. The data collection and analysis for the 46 indicators outlined in my previous report continue to be conducted in collaboration with the United Nations country team and national stakeholders, using the existing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. This joint monitoring mechanism, enhancing the coordination of actions planned by MINUJUSTH and the United Nations country team in support of the Government, will further facilitate the transfer of tasks and responsibilities. The progress made during the reporting period is outlined in annex I to the present report.

17. Following the recent protests and civil unrest, MINUJUSTH is stepping up its community violence reduction programme to mitigate pockets of community violence, thus contributing to the implementation of benchmarks 2 and 6. The programme is engaging at-risk young people, women and other marginalized groups in fragile neighbourhoods in income-generating activities and encouraging community dialogue. In response to the previously reported increase in gang activity in the Port-au-Prince neighbourhoods of Grand Ravine and Martissant, the programme launched three separate initiatives in partnership with the national organization Lakou Lapè and international partners Viva Rio and Terre des Hommes, which together are aimed at mobilizing communities, engaging gang leaders and fostering dialogue to promote peace, as well as reintegrating at-risk young people through income-generating activities and small-scale entrepreneurship. These community violence reduction initiatives complement interventions by the national police and offer opportunities for livelihood as an alternative to gang membership, mobilizing and raising the awareness of community members in the most marginalized urban areas about security and rule of law issues, thus promoting community support and trust in the work of the national police and rule of law institutions.

18. MINUJUSTH mobile teams supported 17 town hall debates throughout the country to raise community awareness of the rule of law, with an additional 32 activities and three projects on the rule of law, financed through the 2017/18 budget for community violence reduction, initiated in August. Based on the field assessments

by mobile teams, 17 quick-impact projects under the 2017/18 budget, aimed at improving the basic structures of rule of law institutions in the justice, corrections and police sectors, are under way.

19. Under the joint rule of law programme, the Mission and the United Nations country team continued to support rule of law institutions in line with the MINUJUSTH mandate and as a vehicle to facilitate the transition. The programme supported oversight and accountability bodies, such as the Superior Council of the Judiciary, the Office of the Ombudsperson and national human rights institutions, including through the use of programmatic funding. The development of the draft five-year strategic plan of the Superior Council is one of the achievements thus far.

20. The Mission is continuing to implement its mandate on the protection of civilians by establishing coordination mechanisms and developing the first quarterly assessment of threats to civilians. The major threats identified are human rights violations by the national police, violence resulting from gang activity and violence triggered by major civil unrest, massive deportation and/or the spontaneous return of Haitian migrants, and natural disasters.

## A. Security and police development (benchmarks 1 and 4–6)

21. The MINUJUSTH police component continued to provide operational support to the national police in crime reduction operations and conducted 268 joint temporary checkpoint operations, 392 on-foot patrols, 1,772 vehicle patrols and 10 joint police operations. In response to the violent protests in Port-au-Prince between 6 and 8 July, 11 crowd control operations were conducted in support of the national police. MINUJUSTH also provided 147 flyovers to support the gathering of real-time information for informed decision-making and a timely response by the national police.

22. In accordance with benchmark 6, data sourced from the national police between 1 June and 2 August suggest that the level of violent crimes remained constant and equal to that in the same period in 2017, with 173 homicides reported, more than half of which were committed in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. Lynching continued to decrease slowly, 11 cases being reported countrywide compared with 15 for the same period in 2017.

23. Nonetheless, gang activity continued to increase, severely testing national police efforts to contain its expansion in the southern districts of Port-au-Prince, in Martissant and Bicentenaire, particularly in Village de Dieu. Seven gang-related incidents were reported between 1 June and 2 August, compared with three for the same period in 2017, as well as a major episode of civil unrest. On 11 June a national police patrol operating in southern Port-au-Prince was attacked, apparently in retaliation for the alleged killing of a member of the Arnel gang by the national police on 9 June. The well-known leader of a gang from Grand Ravine, Junior Decimus, also known as Tèt Kale, who was released from detention on 11 June, promptly sought to regain control of his former neighbourhood and was killed on 5 July in a confrontation with a gang from Ti Bois. The presence of criminal gangs has also been reported in the Nippes, Artibonite and North Departments, the first two being among the three departments from which the Mission will be withdrawing formed police units.

24. While the overall number of civil protests reflected a decrease of 8 per cent from the same period in 2017, with 108 incidents reported between 1 June and 2 August compared with 118, the number of violent protests increased, with 37 violent demonstrations compared with 30 for the same period in 2017. It culminated in the major violent protests between 6 and 8 July. The unrest was initiated by groups of young men who moved rapidly across the greater Port-au-Prince area, setting up

roadblocks, burning tyres and firing in the air, effectively shutting down the entire metropolitan area within a few hours. Initially unimpeded by law enforcement officials, the movement gradually gathered larger crowds, who ransomed passers-by, burned vehicles and looted and ransacked businesses in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area and the communes of Pétion-Ville, Delmas and Tabarre. At least two national police officers and six civilians were reported as killed and extensive material damage to private businesses was registered. Similar unrest, on a lesser scale, took place across the country. Over 100 people arrested in relation to the incidents remained in detention at the national penitentiary at the time of reporting.

25. On 28 May, a presidential decree was issued, conferring upon the Superior Council of the National Police the authority to approve appointments and transfers of national police officers. Civil society organizations and political parties expressed concern that the order might reduce the autonomy of the Director General of the national police and influence the management of the police, the chain of command, the morale of officers and public confidence in the apolitical nature of the security system. Nevertheless, after a meeting with the President on 31 July, the Director General, Michel-Ange Gédéon, announced several appointments and transfers of senior officers, effective on 1 August. This was the second series of senior-level appointments that did not strictly comply with the presidential decree. The changes included the leadership of the three central directorates, several departmental directorates, the Directorate of Prison Administration and the composition of the front office of the Director General.

26. In August, in accordance with benchmark 4, the national police and MINUJUSTH completed the first joint annual assessment of the strategic development plan for the national police for the period 2017–2021. Preliminary outcomes of the assessment indicate that of the 108 priority actions scheduled to begin in 2017 and 2018, 2 have been completed, 100 are ongoing and 6 are yet to start.

27. By 31 August, the national police strength will stand at 15,042 police officers, including 1,379 women, and 2,973 civilian staff, including 1,076 women, with 32.7 per cent of personnel deployed outside the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, 7.3 per cent short of the target of 40 per cent under benchmark 4. During the reporting period, three cases of suicide were reported among national police officers, against none in the same period in 2017. An increase in the number of officers killed and wounded also reflected the challenges for the force, with three officers killed and eight wounded, compared with two and three, respectively, in the same period of the previous year.

28. Overall, the percentage of women in the police stands at 9.17 per cent, but is expected to increase to 10 per cent with the graduation in October of more than 200 female cadets of the twenty-ninth promotion. Under benchmark 4, these efforts will need to be maintained for the next three promotions. The training of 750 cadets of the thirtieth promotion is scheduled to start in November following the completion of physical assessments and interviews now under way. In accordance with benchmark 4, MINUJUSTH and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women launched a joint project in August to strengthen gender-responsive recruitment by the national police. The project has a dual approach that includes the provision of logistical support to build the capacity of the Women's Affairs National Coordination Office of the national police and offers targeted technical support to potential candidates with a view to increasing the pass rate of women sitting the national police entrance examination.

29. On 6 July, the MINUJUSTH specialized police team on sexual and gender-based violence and the national police unit established to combat sexual offences inaugurated a renovated building on the premises of the judicial police, financed by

the Government of Norway. The completion of this project is an important milestone in efforts by the national police to embed a specialized office for sexual violence crimes within the judicial police directorate. Three 2-day workshops on sexual and gender-based violence were facilitated by the national police unit established to combat sexual offences, the Port-au-Prince Court of Appeal and the Legal Service Training College for 60 participants, including 21 women, from all levels of the criminal justice system in the North, Nippes and Artibonite Departments. Rape and other sexual and gender-based violence continue to be consistently underreported. Nevertheless, national police statistics show steady progress in the number of sexual and gender-based violence cases investigated. In that regard, between 1 January and 8 August, 149 cases were investigated, which suggests an increasing trend when compared with the 181 cases investigated throughout 2017.

30. In cooperation with a national partner, MINUJUSTH launched an awareness and community mobilization project aimed at strengthening the contribution of community members and State actors to efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence, including with regard to bottlenecks in the legal processing of cases. The project is designed to reach some 200,000 people across 12 communes of the Grand-Anse, South and Artibonite Departments. On 3 August, the Mission launched, with a national partner, a project aimed at strengthening the capacity of the national police to establish a gender-sensitive recruitment mechanism.

31. In line with benchmark 4 on developing the police response capacity, the national police continued to assume increased responsibility in the planning and execution of complex operations, as evidenced in the implementation of joint operations in crime-prone areas in southern Port-au-Prince and in the vicinity of the international airport, as well as in the aftermath of the violent demonstrations on 6 July. The MINUJUSTH police component supported its national counterparts in preparing the budget proposal for fiscal year 2018/19 in line with the funding requirements for the strategic development plan. In addition, at a two-day workshop held at the Police Academy in June, 29 national police officers received training in drafting project proposals for submission to donors and the national authorities in the framework of the strategic development plan.

32. During the reporting period, 16 infrastructure projects were under construction or renovation, 4 of which were financed through quick-impact projects, 4 through the joint rule of law programme for 2017–2018, 2 through bilateral cooperation, 1 through the sexual and gender-based violence specialized team and 5 by the Government. Overall, since the adoption of the strategic development plan, 33 infrastructure projects have been implemented.

## B. Justice (benchmarks 1, 2, 5 and 6)

33. MINUJUSTH continued to support the jurisdiction of Port-au-Prince in efforts to combat prolonged pretrial detention by working to increase the performance of the jurisdiction in handling cases and improving access to justice. During the reporting period, the committee on the criminal justice system held monthly meetings to assess progress in the government action plan.

34. The number of criminal cases heard by the court of first instance of Port-au-Prince increased in the second quarter by 102 per cent over the previous period, with 192 hearings held, including 22 immediate trial procedures and 19 cases of habeas corpus. The number of files closed by investigating judges, which had increased by 22 per cent in the previous period, further increased by 17 per cent from 95 in the first quarter to 111 in the second. During the same period, of the 348 criminal cases received by prosecutors, 47.5 per cent were processed in real time, 40 per cent were

dropped and the remaining 12.5 per cent were not immediately processed. To better handle cases involving children, UNICEF supported the construction in Les Cayes of a tribunal for such cases, which will be inaugurated before the end of the year.

35. As at 15 June, the two legal aid offices dedicated to pretrial detainees at the national penitentiary, which began functioning on 7 May, had taken charge of 841 cases, of which 82 had been closed, comprising 17 backlogged cases and 65 more recent ones, resulting in the release of 63 individuals. To date, the legal aid lawyers have held 790 consultations helping to assess the status of inmates and collect additional information, and consequently better prepare the defence. They have filed 65 habeas corpus requests pertaining to illegal detention cases. The objective of the offices is to assist at least 50 per cent of pretrial detainees at the penitentiary by May 2019. Two additional offices dedicated to minors and women in pretrial detention at the centre for the re-education of minors in conflict with the law and the Cabaret prison were initiated in August. All four legal aid projects were implemented with the technical support of MINUJUSTH and financed by its community violence reduction programme to increase access to justice for vulnerable individuals, in particular detainees, and thereby help to build community trust in the justice system.

36. The membership of the Superior Council of the Judiciary was renewed on 3 July for a three-year term. Unlike in the past, no women were appointed. Of the nine seats, five are held by new incumbents, two former councillors were reappointed and both ex officio members, the President and the Public Prosecutor of the Court of Cassation, kept their seats. Despite some achievements, the outgoing Council holds a weak record in key mandated areas, such as the vetting, oversight, discipline and performance appraisal of judges. Its performance was affected by an unclear division of labour with its counterpart, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, and by budgetary constraints and allegations of interference by the other branches of power.

37. With MINUJUSTH support, the Council drafted its strategic plan for the period 2018–2023, benefiting from consultations with judicial actors, civil society members and technical staff of the Council. It encompasses five strategic areas: strengthening and developing the human resources of the judiciary, consolidating and strengthening judicial inspection, consolidating and strengthening the administration of the Council, bringing Haitian society closer to the justice system, and undertaking legislative reform to improve the independence of the judiciary.

38. To assist the Council in fulfilling its legal obligation to produce its annual activity reports and obtain data to inform decision-making, MINUJUSTH supported nationwide data collection process and analysis of the state of the judiciary, in line with benchmark 1. The report, currently in draft form, will provide a mapping and an updatable electronic database of the judicial system.

39. The Vetting Commission, following the validation of the mechanism, prepared an action plan to certify judges in all 18 courts of first instance and five courts of appeal within two years. Adequate resources, which are yet to be identified, will be required for its implementation.

40. Delays in the appointment of judges continue to hinder the normal functioning of the judiciary. Of the 12 positions at the Court of Cassation, the highest court, 6 remain vacant, while a significant number of judges in the lower courts are awaiting appointment. Of the 100 files submitted, 41 judges were appointed in May and 10 in July. In addition, since 15 June, the direct integration of 48 trainee judges of the first probationary training course at the Legal Service Training College, including six women, to fill vacancies in the Peace Tribunals of the South Department is pending. On 30 June, the first promotion of 40 court clerks, including 8 women, graduated from the Training College. MINUJUSTH provided technical and logistical support for the training.

## C. Corrections (benchmarks 1, 3 and 5)

41. The penitentiary system continues to be characterized by acute overcrowding — a 365 per cent occupancy rate — owing to the high prolonged pretrial detention rate, with 75 per cent of the total prison population unsentenced, indicating no percentage change since the issuance of my previous report. As at 6 July, the prisons held 11,788 detainees, including 427 women, as well as 294 male and 18 female juveniles.

42. Overcrowding, low staffing levels, a semi-skilled workforce and a lack of resources largely owing to budgetary constraints continue to have a negative impact on the functioning of the prison administration, which remains subsumed under the national police and lacks financial and administrative autonomy.

43. MINUJUSTH continues to provide technical support to the Directorate of Prison Administration to develop and implement targeted and dedicated recruitment and build administrative and managerial capacity, in preparation for the independent management of the financial and administrative resources of the Directorate. To this end, MINUJUSTH and the Directorate organized training for 110 prison staff, including 18 senior management officers, of whom 5 are women, 66 mid-level managers, including 1 woman, and 26 female administrative assistants. Thus far, 82 per cent of the senior level managers have benefited from advanced skills training. In addition, 94 graduates, including 14 women, from the twenty-eighth promotion of the national police were integrated into the penitentiary system, increasing the number of officers to 1,182. UNICEF provided direct support to the Directorate to reinforce its capacity to assist children in conflict with the law, including at the Delmas 33 children's rehabilitation centre.

44. MINUJUSTH continued to assist the Directorate of Prison Administration in the certification of nine prisons as capable of operating without full-time international support. The Mission provided targeted support in completing a general analysis of routine operational activities and contingency plans to address shortfalls in the certification process.

45. With respect to health conditions, 51 deaths in detention, of which 50 resulted from illness and 1 from suicide, were recorded from 1 January to 6 July (an annual rate of 8 per 1,000 detainees), marking a reduction from the 126 cases registered from January to June 2017. MINUJUSTH continues to support the Directorate in the implementation of the medical road map in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health and Population, the World Health Organization and other health partners. The Mission continues to support the improvement of prison conditions and infrastructure and the social reintegration of detainees through the implementation of two community violence reduction projects and quick-impact projects.

46. The Mission is rolling out an automated detainee records management system in prisons in Les Cayes, Cap-Haïtien, Fort Liberté and Cabaret, as well as at the centre for the re-education of minors in conflict with the law. Meanwhile, at the national penitentiary, 4,700 detainee files have been processed. There has been no progress in the adoption of draft legislation on prisons and on elevating the prison administration to a central directorate of the national police with financial and administrative autonomy.

## D. Human rights (benchmarks 4–9)

47. MINUJUSTH continued to work with national institutions to strengthen the national human rights protection framework. In May, it conducted the last of four training sessions on arrest and detention procedures for 48 trainee judges.

48. During the reporting period, MINUJUSTH conducted four joint missions with the Office of the Ombudsperson to gather data on the judicial response to allegations of sexual violence. Data show that the majority of the alleged victims of sexual violence are underage girls, although in some instances the rape of boys has been reported. Throughout the regions, interlocutors reported that in many instances the family of the victim entered into an out-of-court settlement with the perpetrator. Prosecutors are known to have encouraged such agreements. Psychological and medical support to victims remains limited, particularly in rural areas.

49. MINUJUSTH continues to enhance the capacity of the Office of the Ombudsperson to function independently. With its support, the Ombudsperson will contribute to the training and vetting of police officers and increase its effective presence in the regions.

50. On 26 June, MINUJUSTH, the Office of the Ombudsperson and two civil society organizations arranged an event to mark the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, which resulted in the Ombudsperson formally advocating in the lower chamber of the parliament the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which was signed by Haiti in 2013.

51. MINUJUSTH continued to carry out capacity-building activities to improve the response of the General Inspectorate of the national police to allegations of human rights violations. In May, the Mission delivered a four-day train-the-trainer course on human rights for 13 senior officers from the Inspectorate who, in June, trained 22 colleagues.

52. The lack of judicial proceedings against police officers suspected of human rights violations continues to raise concerns. While in the five cases of excessive use of force mentioned in my previous report internal investigations were opened and, in some instances, preliminary measures were taken against officers, no judicial proceedings were initiated in relation to the cases. Since then, three more incidents of excessive use of force and misconduct have been documented. On 9 May, police officers killed a man and injured two others during a demonstration in Petit-Gôave (West Department). On 22 May, two officers beat a man after his arrest in Port-à-Piment (South Department). On 1 June, an officer injured a man with his service weapon during a private altercation in Bonbon (Grand-Anse Department). The General Inspectorate opened internal investigations in all cases, but no judicial proceedings were initiated.

53. As at 1 June, standard operating procedures on information-sharing and follow-up action to prevent and respond to human rights violations, as well as on the implementation of the human rights due diligence policy, were in effect in MINUJUSTH.

54. On 3 July, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presented his report on Haiti (A/HRC/38/30) to the Human Rights Council. The Government reacted positively and announced that the Minister of Justice and Public Security would be the new focal point for human rights, thus paving the way for the Government to resume work on a national action plan. MINUJUSTH will advocate the formalization of the appointment.

55. On 4 July, the national police forcibly evicted people from seven private properties in Pelerin, a neighbourhood in Pétion-Ville (West Department), on what was claimed to be State-owned land, and demolished the properties. Violent protests ensued, with residents claiming property rights over the land. The eviction was requested by the public prosecutor of Port-au-Prince without a court order.

56. On 3 August, MINUJUSTH launched a project in Port-au-Prince aimed at combating discrimination against members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community. In accordance with benchmark 8, the project will strengthen the capacity of 30 Haitian non-governmental organizations by providing them with tools to fight homophobia and promote security and human rights.

### E. Anti-corruption and Permanent Electoral Council (benchmarks 10 and 11)

57. MINUJUSTH is designing a programme to fill gaps in critical needs in the Central Financial Intelligence Unit and the Anti-Corruption Unit. The latter has identified six areas for support, including configuring the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) "goCASE" software for investigative case management and the development of a new national anti-corruption strategy. The former is identifying specific needs based on an assessment of the Unit completed on 27 June, and MINUJUSTH has initiated coordination efforts with UNODC.

58. Delays in constituting the nine-member Permanent Electoral Council persisted, with no indication of a timeline for the completion of the nomination of representatives by the three branches of power. Meanwhile, civil society organizations and political leaders made proposals for changes in the political and electoral system and, on 30 June, in the framework of the national sector-based dialogue in North-East Department during the first in a series of planned regional workshops on governance, specifically called for the establishment of the Permanent Electoral Council to help to stabilize the country.

59. The Provisional Electoral Council began preliminary preparations for the holding of elections in October 2019 to renew a third of the Senate, the entire lower chamber and possibly the municipal councils. The Council is completing the draft electoral law, with technical support from UNDP and other international partners. The draft budget for fiscal year 2018/19 features a $9.9 million envelope for the Council, including, for the first time, a budget line for investments. A separate budget for the 2019 elections is under review by the executive.

## IV. Joint transition planning

60. The Mission has been working closely with the Government, the United Nations country team and external partners to prepare for the transition to a non-peacekeeping presence in the country beyond 15 October 2019. Partnerships are critical to the delivery of the Mission's mandate and effective transition planning, given its time-bound nature and role in fostering the inclusivity and empowerment of political actors, national institutions and civil society organizations, including women's and youth organizations. As such, the senior leadership of the Mission actively engaged with the President, members of the Government and the international community on issues related to the exit strategy, the joint workplan on governance and the rule of law (outcome 5 of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework) and support for the strategic development plan of the national police.

61. In February, the Mission and the United Nations country team, with support from Headquarters, assessed the current capacities of the United Nations system in Haiti. They examined the ability of the Organization to deliver sustainable results in the programmatic areas of governance and the rule of law, as well as on gender equality and human rights. In the report capacity gaps were identified in technical assistance and operational support for the national police, technical assistance for the prison administration, advocacy and good offices, and operation support services. The capacities of the Mission and the country team partners to deliver on gender equality issues are also limited, and the downsizing of the Mission will widen this gap.

62. A joint resource mobilization strategy, based on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2017–2021, is currently being developed by the country team, in collaboration with MINUJUSTH and Headquarters, to support the implementation of its strategic priorities and take into account specific requirements arising from transition planning and the role of the new United Nations approach to cholera. The resource requirements will be refined on an ongoing basis and finalized along with the midterm review of the assistance framework in the second quarter of 2019 that will cover the outcome of the strategic assessment requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2410 (2018) and its recommendations on the footprint and configuration of the future United Nations presence, and the identification of remaining priorities after the withdrawal of the Mission, which are to be addressed by the country team.

63. In parallel, the Mission finalized a security transition plan in anticipation of the withdrawal of two of its seven formed police units between 15 October 2018 and 15 April 2019, on the basis of a careful assessment of risks and national capacities to adequately address security needs, the potential impact on mandate implementation and mitigating measures. The plan was prepared in an integrated manner, in alignment with the benchmarked exit strategy. The consultation process also included the Government and the high command of the national police to ensure that adequate security arrangements are put in place, concomitant with the withdrawal. The plan is based on an assessment of the security situation and protection needs of civilians in the 10 departments of Haiti and progress made in the accomplishment of related benchmark indicators by the national police, in particular with regard to crowd control.

64. Mitigation measures to accompany the withdrawal, prevent the creation of a security vacuum and ensure a smooth transition in the departments concerned were developed. These include the enhancement of the infrastructural and operational capacity of the national police through projects financed thanks to the joint rule of law programme and quick-impact projects, the scaling-up of the community violence reduction programme to enhance community support for the work of the national police, the development of security plans for United Nations staff operating in the departments from which the two formed police units will be withdrawn, the enforcement of measures to prevent cases of sexual exploitation and abuse and information campaigns to inform national stakeholders of the reduction of the police component. On the basis of these considerations, the withdrawal of formed police units from the Nippes and Artibonite Departments is planned, although the capabilities of special weapons and tactics teams will be maintained but relocated from Artibonite to the West Department. The exact timing of the withdrawal will be decided on the basis of operational considerations.

## V. Mission support

65. Mission support personnel successfully completed the liquidation of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) at the end of June with the closure of four camps in Port-au-Prince, leaving MINUJUSTH with two camps: Delta, which at the time of reporting houses the joint operations and security control centres, the police component and a formed police unit, and the logistics base, which serves as the Mission headquarters. The implementation of the first phase of the consolidation plan was aimed at reducing the footprint of the Mission as much as possible, in accordance with liquidation guidelines, while providing MINUJUSTH with rightsized infrastructure. The gradual return of the vacated premises and the disposal of the last MINUSTAH assets marked the end of the liquidation.

66. The second phase of the consolidation plan, which will last approximately six months, will on the one hand set up the new Mission supply chain structure at the logistics base, while on the other hand rightsizing and adjusting MINUJUSTH inventories to the current needs and requirements in support of the mandate.

67. The reduction of the Mission's assets and expendables will prepare for and facilitate the future liquidation of MINUJUSTH. It should therefore mirror both the light Mission structure with lean staffing and the new operational requirements. In the same vein, mission support personnel will soon outsource as many ancillary services as possible to overcome any future staff shortages. This approach will also enable the Mission to prepare for a gradual drawdown with the progressive downsizing of the number of formed police units.

## VI. Conduct and discipline

68. There have been no new allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse since my previous report. The Mission pursued its prevention activities, including training, public information and outreach, to raise public awareness of the United Nations standards of conduct, in particular the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, complemented by remedial action. As part of the remedial action, the Mission maintained continuous communication with and referral for assistance of the victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

69. On 27 July, MINUJUSTH launched a six-month project following up on recommendations made by the Victims' Rights Advocate on sexual exploitation and abuse after her visit to Haiti in April. The project is aimed at covering school fees and providing lunch boxes for the children of victims of sexual abuse and exploitation perpetrated by MINUSTAH personnel.

## VII. Observations

70. The violent events that took place between 6 and 8 July in Port-au-Prince and other Haitian cities marked a significant spike in violence and underscored the importance of building broad-based political support to implement key economic reforms, which are a basic prerequisite for the long-term stability of the country. I am deeply saddened by the loss of life and the destruction that took place. This violent civil unrest reflects the continuing volatility of the situation and the need to ease the daily hardships faced by the people. I urge all parties to abstain from the use of violence to achieve political goals and instead respect the Constitution and the rule of law and to find a consensual solution to the problems facing the country.

71. My Deputy Special Representative for Haiti and Officer-in-Charge of MINUJUSTH used his good offices in support of a swift and consensus-based solution to the situation triggered by the curtailing of fuel subsidies. He engaged extensively with the President and other political decision makers, in coordination with the Core Group on Haiti and the broader diplomatic corps. These collective international efforts to promote dialogue, advocate respect for the rule of law and to foster stability need to continue.

72. Delays in the adoption and implementation of State programmes and the slow-moving legislative process may contribute to a lack of public confidence in the country's institutions and to deterring internal and external private investment critical to fostering sustainable development, ultimately increasing the challenges to be overcome by the people. If not addressed, those conditions will bring further destabilization and divert Haiti from its path to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Immediate assistance, in particular to reinforce social safety nets, will be crucial in the coming months as families face additional economic adversity associated with the return to school.

73. It is therefore essential that the authorities and their partners put this period of unrest behind them and turn with renewed energy to the tasks ahead. Much remains to be done to ensure a smooth and effective transition to a non-peacekeeping presence in the coming year, as evidenced in the progress report on the benchmark indicators set out in annex I to the present report. Sustained efforts by the leaders and people, MINUJUSTH and the entire United Nations country team, as well as the wider international community, will be required.

74. A key indicator of progress will be the ability of the political leadership in the executive and legislative branches, in consultation with political parties and civil society organizations, to rapidly constitute a new Government and collaborate effectively in addressing the urgent problems. I welcome in this regard the appointment by the President of a new Prime Minister and look forward to the formation of a Government that will continue to lead Haiti towards the consolidation of peace, stability and sustainable development. At this critical juncture, it is essential that actors from across the political spectrum and from all branches of the Government work together for the common good.

75. MINUJUSTH will continue to work with government officials, the international community and civil society organizations through the good offices of my Special Representative to support dialogue efforts. Broad cooperation between relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, and enhanced communication between the Haitian institutions and the public are key to ensuring success in addressing priority tasks, including the adoption of short-term measures that can respond to the immediate needs of the people.

76. The adoption of the governance or stability pact expected to result from the national sector-based dialogue, by which all relevant actors and institutions would commit themselves to supporting the implementation of several agreed-upon political, economic and social objectives, will be a step forward in this direction. Enhanced collaboration between the executive branch and the parliament, possibly including through the establishment of a coordinated legislative agenda, could also help. A broad-based approach would be a prerequisite to tackling political issues that have been cited as priorities by political actors, such as the efforts to combat corruption and undertake reform of the regulations governing political parties. Likewise, a spirit of collaboration is crucial for the successful holding of elections in 2019.

77. Progress must also continue in consolidating the rule of law. Maintaining a stable political environment and keeping reform priorities on track are instrumental

to that end. A renewed commitment by both the Government and the international community to the full implementation and funding of the five-year strategic development plan for the national police, as well as the adoption of the strategic plan by the Superior Council of the Judiciary and the allocation of budgetary resources for implementation, are some of the necessary steps. As reflected herein, the indicators show uneven progress against the benchmarks informing the future drawdown of MINUJUSTH. Efforts must be redoubled to ensure that the benchmarks are attained and form a solid foundation on which to strengthen the rule of law, consolidate stability and advance towards sustainable development.

78. In compliance with resolution 2410 (2018), the withdrawal of two formed police units has been planned, on the basis of a thorough assessment of the security situation nationwide and the capacity of the national police to assume full responsibility for security in the areas in question. The implementation of this plan and corresponding mitigation measures in the coming months will serve as a test for the future drawdown and withdrawal of the uniformed component of the Mission. This will be premised on the evolution of the security situation, gauging progress against the benchmarks, and form part of the upcoming strategic assessment requested by the Council, to be included in my report of 1 March 2019.

79. In concluding, I should like to express my sincere gratitude to my Deputy Special Representative for Haiti, Mamadou Diallo, who served as Officer-in-Charge of the Mission during the reporting period, and the women and men of MINUJUSTH for their courage and dedication in consolidating the rule of law in Haiti, as well as to those Member States that have provided police personnel for the Mission. My new Special Representative and Head of MINUJUSTH, Helen Meagher La Lime, will assume her functions on 3 September.

## Annex I

### Benchmark indicators, targets and baselines

| *Benchmark* | *Indicator* | *Target timeline* | *Target* | *Update as at 15 July (or otherwise specified)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. The executive and legislative branches have promulgated legislation that improves access to justice, enhances the development of the national police and addresses prolonged pretrial detention, which is a cause of prison overcrowding; all branches have initiated implementation of the new legislation, including through sustainable budget allocations | 1.1 Existence of the new Criminal Code (1 — draft law initiated; 2 — draft law voted by each chamber; 3 — law promulgated by President) | April 2019 | 3 — New Criminal Code is promulgated | 1 — Draft Criminal Code under review in each chamber's justice and security commission |
| | 1.2 Existence of the Code of Criminal Procedure (1 — draft law initiated; 2 — draft law voted by each chamber; 3 — law promulgated by President) | April 2019 | 3 — Code of Criminal Procedure is promulgated | 1 — Draft Code of Criminal Procedure under review in each chamber's justice and security commission |
| | 1.3 Existence of the Legal Aid Law (1 — draft law initiated; 2 — draft law voted by each chamber; 3 — law promulgated by President) | April 2019 | 3 — Legal Aid Law is promulgated | 1 — Draft legal aid law adopted by Senate and sent to lower chamber |
| | 1.4 Existence of the organic law on the Haitian National Police elevating Directorate of Prison Administration to a central directorate (1 — draft law initiated; 2 — draft law voted by each chamber; 3 — law promulgated by President) | April 2019 | 3 — Organic law on national police is promulgated | 1 — Draft organic law still pending review by national police |
| | 1.5 Existence of the Prison Law (1 — draft law initiated; 2 — draft law voted by each chamber; 3 — law promulgated by President) | April 2019 | 3 — Prison Law is promulgated | 1 — Draft prison law pending final validation by Directorate of Prison Administration |
| | 1.6 Identification of the implementation requirements by the relevant institutions, including budgetary allocations, for the new legislation (disaggregated by law) | October 2019 | Implementation requirements, including budgetary allocations, are determined for new legislation | Identification of implementation requirements for:<br>draft Criminal Code, not yet adopted; for<br>Code of Criminal Procedure, not yet adopted; for |

| *Benchmark* | *Indicator* | *Target timeline* | *Target* | *Update as at 15 July (or otherwise specified)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | legal aid law, not yet adopted; for organic law on national police, not yet adopted; and for prison law, not yet adopted |
| | 1.7 Number of new case files processed in real time by the prosecutors in the jurisdiction of Port-au-Prince | October 2019 | 800 new case files processed in real time by the prosecutors in the jurisdiction of Port-au-Prince | October 2017–June 2018: 358 new cases processed in real time by Port-au-Prince jurisdiction prosecutors |
| | 1.8 Proportion of detainees in pretrial detention in excess of two years at the civil prison of Port-au-Prince | October 2019 | 50.4 per cent of detainees in pretrial detention at the civil prison of Port-au-Prince | 16 July 2018: 61.6 per cent of detainees in pretrial detention at civil prison of Port-au-Prince (2,320 of 3,764) |
| | 1.9 Number of cases closed by investigative judges in the jurisdiction of Port-au-Prince | October 2019 | 750 orders issued | October 2017–June 2018: 280 orders issued |
| | 1.10 Number of penal cases adjudicated by the court of first instance of Port-au-Prince | October 2019 | 800 penal cases adjudicated by the court of first instance of Port-au-Prince | October 2017–June 2018: court of first instance of Port-au-Prince adjudicated 352 penal cases |
| 2. The Haitian authorities make timely, gender-balanced and merit-based appointments in the justice sector, including in the Superior Council of the Judiciary, the Court of Cassation and the Superior Court of Audits and Administrative Disputes | 2.1 Existence of the annual report of the Superior Council of the Judiciary, to include: judiciary staffing by gender; judiciary inspection results; number of certified judges; and implementation of judge evaluation process | April 2019 | Annual report of the Superior Council of the Judiciary available, including: judiciary staffing by gender; judiciary inspection results; number of certified judges; and implementation of judge evaluation process | MINUJUSTH supported the Superior Council of the Judiciary in the collection and analysis of nationwide data on the state of the judiciary. The report, currently being drafted, will provide a mapping and a database of the judicial system |
| | 2.2 Number of seats filled at the Superior Council of the Judiciary, the Court of Cassation and the Superior Court of Audits and | April 2019 | Superior Council of the Judiciary: 9/9 (3 women) | Superior Council of the Judiciary: 9/9 (0 women). All seats were renewed for a three-year term |

| *Benchmark* | *Indicator* | *Target timeline* | *Target* | *Update as at 15 July (or otherwise specified)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Administrative Disputes, disaggregated by gender | | Court of Cassation: 12/12 (4 women)<br>Superior Court of Audits and Administrative Disputes: 9/9 (3 women) | beginning on 3 July 2018. Five seats have new incumbents, two councillors were reappointed and the President and the Public Prosecutor of the Court of Cassation remain as ex officio members. No women are members, unlike in the past two rounds, when two women were members.<br>Court of Cassation: 6/12 (1 woman). Since the Superior Council sent to the President, with an opinion, the list of retained candidates for nomination established by the Senate, there has been no progress.<br>Superior Court of Audits and Administrative Disputes: 9/9 (2 women) |
| 3. The Directorate of Prison Administration performs key management functions providing basic services to all detainees and ensures respect for their rights | 3.1 Number of deaths per 1,000 inmates | October 2019 | Ratio equal to or below 10/1,000 inmates | 1 January to 15 July 2018: 8/1,000 inmates (52 deaths registered) |
| | 3.2 Number of prisons supported by functioning health services for inmates, disaggregated by gender | October 2019 | Nine out of 18 prisons and four largest national police holding facilities supported by adequate health-care facilities for inmates | Seven out of 18 prisons supported by functioning health services for inmates |
| | 3.3 Number of Directorate of Prison Administration officers recruited through a dedicated process, disaggregated by gender, out | October 2019 | 300 Directorate of Prison Administration officers recruited, of whom 30 per cent | Strategy on targeted and dedicated recruitment not yet implemented |

| *Benchmark* | *Indicator* | *Target timeline* | *Target* | *Update as at 15 July (or otherwise specified)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | of the 941 new officers required by 2021 to meet the Directorate's needs | | are women, out of the total 941 new officers to meet the Directorate's needs by 2021 | |
| | 3.4 Number of prisons certified by the Directorate of Prison Administration as being able to operate without full-time support from international actors (MINUJUSTH or others) | October 2019 | Nine prisons certified out of 18 | Draft evaluation survey is pending validation by Directorate of Prison Administration |
| 4. The national police responds to public disorder and manages security threats throughout Haiti, demonstrating elevated levels of professionalism, human rights awareness and gender sensitivity, without requiring international support, as a result of the implementation of the relevant priorities of the strategic development plan of the national police for 2017–2021 | 4.1 Implementation rate of the strategic development plan of the national police for 2017–2021 | October 2019 | 43 per cent implemented (57 of 133 priorities in strategic development plan) | 43 per cent implemented (57 of 133 priorities in strategic development plan). First annual evaluation of the plan for 2017–2021 should be completed by August |
| | 4.2 Number of police officers per 1,000 citizens | October 2019 | 1.45 | 1.32 (reduction owing to dismissals, deaths and resignations of police officers) |
| | 4.3 Percentage of women police officers | October 2019 | 11 per cent | 9.17 per cent (1,379 women of 15,042 total) |
| | 4.4 Percentage of national police capacity statically deployed outside the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area | October 2019 | 40 per cent | 32.7 per cent |
| | 4.5 Number of specialized public order units out of the 13 existing units of the national police (12 Unités départementales pour le maintien de l'ordre and 1 Compagnie d'intervention et de maintien de l'ordre) capable of responding to security threats with no MINUJUSTH support | October 2019 | All 13 units are capable of responding to security threats with no MINUJUSTH support | Six of the 13 units operate without MINUJUSTH support |

| *Benchmark* | *Indicator* | *Target timeline* | *Target* | *Update as at 15 July (or otherwise specified)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 4.6 Percentage of public order/security operations planned and executed by national police without MINUJUSTH support | October 2019 | 100 per cent of operations without MINUJUSTH support | 96 per cent of operations without MINUJUSTH support |
| | 4.7 Percentage of national budget allocated to national police | October 2019 | 8.0 per cent of national budget allocated to national police | 7.2 per cent of national budget allocated to national police (amended budget) |
| 5. Strengthened internal oversight and accountability mechanisms in the justice, corrections and police sectors address misconduct and ensure increased effectiveness and compliance with human rights | 5.1 Number of courts of first instance inspected (out of 18)<br>Number of appeal courts inspected (out of 5) | April 2019 | All 18 courts of first instance and 5 appeal courts inspected by the Ministry of Justice | No inspections conducted |
| | 5.2 Percentage of allegations of human rights violations against public officials (national police officers, Directorate of Prison Administration officials) investigated by the General Inspectorate of the national police | April 2019 | 80 per cent of all allegations investigated by the General Inspectorate of the national police | 1 January–30 June: 81.2 per cent of allegations of human rights violations against national police officers, including Directorate of Prison Administration officials, investigated (147 of 181 received by General Inspectorate of national police) |
| | 5.3 Percentage of confirmed misconduct by national police and Directorate of Prison Administration officers disciplined by the national police | April 2019 | 60 per cent of cases investigated have sanctions implemented | 1 January–30 June: 8.4 per cent (13 cases have been sanctioned of the 155 allegations of misconduct against national police officers, including Directorate of Prison Administration officials, investigated by General Inspectorate of the national police) |

| *Benchmark* | *Indicator* | *Target timeline* | *Target* | *Update as at 15 July (or otherwise specified)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5.4 Percentage of confirmed crimes or human rights violations committed by national police and Directorate of Prison Administration officers prosecuted by judicial authorities | April 2019 | 100 per cent of confirmed crimes or human rights violations committed by national police officers prosecuted by judicial authorities | 0 per cent |
| | 5.5 Percentage of staff of the General Inspectorate of the national police deployed outside the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, disaggregated by gender | April 2019 | 30 per cent of projected 340 staff of the General Inspectorate of the national police deployed outside the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area | July 2018: none of the 188 personnel assigned to the General Inspectorate of the national police deployed outside the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area |
| 6. Haitian women and men, in particular those from the most vulnerable and marginalized communities, demonstrate increased trust in the capability and willingness of the justice system to address crime and of the national police to provide security | 6.1 Proportion of the population expressing satisfaction on how the national police performs at reducing crime | April 2019 | 88 per cent | N/A: survey pending |
| | 6.2 Number of youth at risk and women benefiting from community violence reduction/reinsertion programmes demonstrating willingness to work with national police community policing initiatives and law enforcement authorities | April 2019 | 500 youth at risk and women cooperating with national police community policing and law enforcement authorities | None: implementation of projects approved for financial period 2017/18 is scheduled to start in July 2018 |
| | 6.3 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 citizens, disaggregated by gender and age | April 2019 | Rate of 9.3 or less of intentional homicide, disaggregated by gender and age | 2018 (From January to 19 July): 6.52, equivalent to 372 intentional homicides, of which 345 are men and 27 women |
| | 6.4 Number of kidnappings reported in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area | April 2019 | 50 or fewer kidnappings reported in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area | 2018 (From January to 19 July): 29 cases of kidnapping, of which 13 are men and 19 women |
| | 6.5 Number of gang-related incidents in the hotspot | April 2019 | 18 or fewer gang-related incidents in the hotspot zones of | 2018 (From January to 19 July): 17 incidents |

| *Benchmark* | *Indicator* | *Target timeline* | *Target* | *Update as at 15 July (or otherwise specified)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | zones of Cité Soleil, Bel-Air and Martissant | | Cité Soleil, Bel-Air and Martissant | |
| | 6.6 Number of sexual and gender-based violence cases investigated by national police, reflecting enhanced national police capacity | April 2019 | At least 275 cases of sexual and gender-based violence are investigated | 2018 (From January to 19 July): 130 cases investigated |
| 7. The national Office of the Ombudsperson functions independently and protects citizens whose rights have been violated | 7.1 Level of compliance of the Office of the Ombudsperson with international standards on the work of national human rights institutions, and structural capacity to operate as an independent and effective institution in accordance with the Paris Principles | October 2019 | A status according to Paris Principles | A status according to Paris Principles until next decision of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions due in May 2019 |
| | 7.2 Number of recommendations of the Office of the Ombudsperson implemented by national rule of law institutions | April 2019 | Three recommendations of the of the Ombudsperson implemented by national rule of law institutions | None |
| 8. Civil society organizations, including those representing women, engage with the Haitian authorities to advocate the promotion and protection of human rights, and are empowered to bring allegations of human rights violations to the competent judicial or administrative authorities | 8.1 Number of alternative reports prepared and submitted by civil society organizations to international human rights mechanisms | April 2019 | Two reports prepared and submitted by civil society organizations to international human rights mechanisms | N/A: no meeting or reviews by international human rights mechanisms in the reporting period |
| | 8.2 Number of cases reported by local civil society organizations monitoring human rights violations | April 2019 | 10 reports published by local civil society organizations monitoring human rights violations | Seven reports published by local civil society organizations monitoring human rights |
| 9. National authorities comply with international human rights obligations, including holding individuals responsible for current and past | 9.1 Availability of national plan of action for human rights | October 2019 | National plan of action for the implementation of the recommendations made by human rights mechanisms, in particular through | On 3 July, the Government announced the appointment of the Minister of Justice and Public Security as the human rights focal point with the |

| *Benchmark* | *Indicator* | *Target timeline* | *Target* | *Update as at 15 July (or otherwise specified)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| human rights violations and fulfilling their reporting obligations to human rights treaty bodies | | | the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council | mandate to lead the interministerial committee on human rights in preparing the national plan of action |
| | 9.2 Number of recommendations made by the human rights mechanisms accepted by the Government of Haiti | April 2019 | Three recommendations made by human rights mechanisms accepted by the Government of Haiti | N/A: no meeting or reviews by international human rights mechanisms in the reporting period |
| | 9.3 Number of reports prepared and submitted to international human rights mechanisms by the Government of Haiti | April 2019 | Two reports prepared and submitted to international human rights mechanisms by the Government of Haiti | N/A: no meeting or reviews by international human rights mechanisms in the reporting period |
| | 9.4 Appointment by the Government of Haiti of a high-level human rights focal point within the executive branch | April 2019 | One high-level focal point within the executive branch appointed by the Government of Haiti | In progress: on 3 July, the Government announced that the Minister of Justice and Public Security would be the human rights focal point, but the appointment needs to be formalized |
| 10. Rule of law and anti-corruption institutions demonstrate increased capacity to fight corruption | 10.1 Availability of annual report on public spending by Superior Court of Audits and Administrative Disputes | April 2019 | The annual report on public spending of Superior Court of Audits and Administrative Disputes is available | 2017 report was finalized and is pending publication |
| 11. The Permanent Electoral Council is established through a credible and transparent process and exercises its electoral responsibilities in an | 11.1 Nomination by the three branches of their three members for the Permanent Electoral Council, with a view to establishing the Council as an operational and independent body | October 2019 | The nine members are nominated and the Permanent Electoral Council is established, is operational and functions independently | Nomination process of the three representatives has been initiated by each branch |

| *Benchmark* | *Indicator* | *Target timeline* | *Target* | *Update as at 15 July (or otherwise specified)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| independent and transparent manner, without requiring international support | 11.2 Update of the electoral lists in preparation of the next electoral cycle | October 2019 | The electoral lists are updated | Not yet undertaken |
| | 11.3 Existence of the Electoral Law in preparation of the next electoral cycle (1 — draft law initiated; 2 — draft law voted by each chamber; 3 — law promulgated by the President) | October 2019 | 3 — Electoral Law is promulgated | 1 — Draft electoral law completed by the Provisional Electoral Council pending submission to the executive for transmission to the parliament |

## Annex II

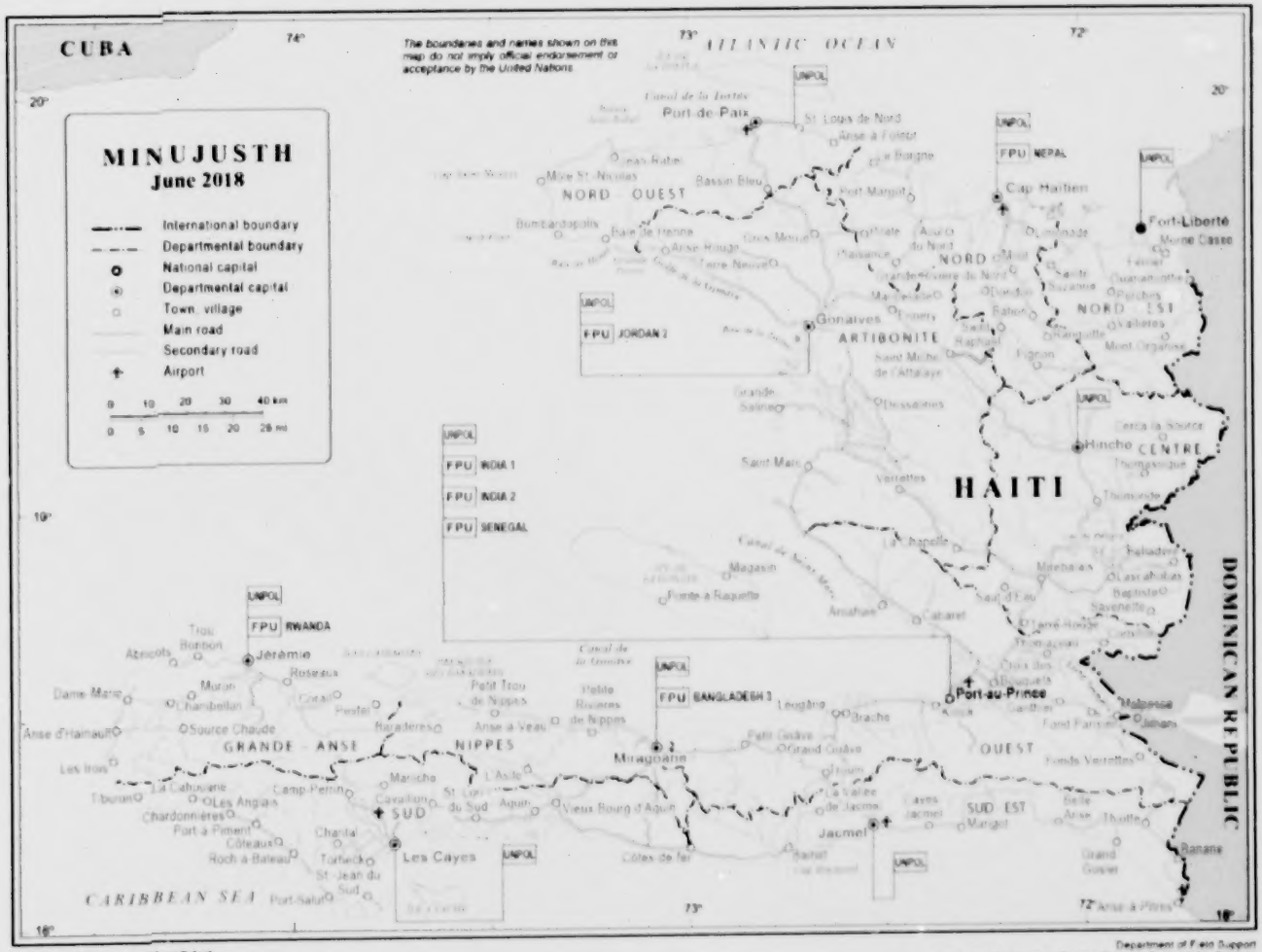
### Composition and strength of the police component of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti as at 13 August 2018

| | *Number of United Nations police officers* | | *Numbers of formed police units* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Country* | *Women* | *Men* | *Women* | *Men* |
| Argentina | 1 | 9 | – | – |
| Benin | – | 24 | – | – |
| Bangladesh | – | 7 | 19 | 134 |
| Burkina Faso | – | 18 | – | – |
| Brazil | – | – | – | – |
| Canada | 7 | 15 | – | – |
| Chad | 1 | 5 | – | – |
| Chile | 1 | 2 | – | – |
| Cameroon | 1 | 1 | – | – |
| Colombia | – | – | – | – |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 1 | 18 | – | – |
| Djibouti | – | 1 | – | – |
| El Salvador | – | 5 | – | – |
| Ethiopia | – | – | – | – |
| France | – | 1 | – | – |
| Germany | – | 1 | – | – |
| Guinea | – | 2 | – | – |
| India | – | – | – | 295 |
| Indonesia | – | 1 | – | – |
| Jordan | – | 8 | – | 138 |
| Madagascar | 1 | 13 | – | – |
| Mali | – | 10 | – | – |
| Mexico | – | 1 | – | – |
| Nepal | – | 1 | 7 | 133 |
| Niger | – | 20 | – | – |
| Nigeria | 1 | 3 | – | – |
| Norway | 3 | 3 | – | – |
| Pakistan | – | 1 | – | – |
| Philippines | – | – | – | – |
| Portugal | – | – | – | – |
| Republic of Korea | 3 | 1 | – | – |
| Romania | 1 | 6 | – | – |
| Russian Federation | 1 | 5 | – | – |
| Rwanda | – | 6 | 21 | 119 |
| Senegal | 8 | 5 | 17 | 123 |
| Slovakia | – | 2 | – | – |
| Spain | – | 2 | – | – |
| Sri Lanka | – | 1 | – | – |

| Country | Number of United Nations police officers | | Numbers of formed police units | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Women | Men | Women | Men |
| Sweden | – | 2 | – | – |
| Togo | 2 | 5 | – | – |
| Tunisia | 3 | 20 | – | – |
| Turkey | – | 12 | – | – |
| United States of America | – | 4 | – | – |
| Uruguay | – | 1 | – | – |
| **Subtotal** | **35** | **242** | **64** | **942** |
| **Total** | | **277** | | **1 006** |
| | | | | **1 283** |

# Annex III

## United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti: deployment map




Map No. 4578 Rev. 2 UNITED NATIONS
June 2018 (Colour)

Department of Field Support
Geospatial Information Section (formerly Cartographic Section)

United Nations S/2018/796

Security Council

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## France: draft resolution

*The Security Council,*

*Recalling* all its previous resolutions on Lebanon, in particular resolutions 425 (1978), 426 (1978), 1559 (2004), 1680 (2006), 1701 (2006), 1773 (2007), 1832 (2008), 1884 (2009), 1937 (2010) and 2004 (2011), 2064 (2012), 2115 (2013), 2172 (2014) and 2236 (2015), 2305 (2016), and 2373 (2017) as well as the statements of its President on the situation in Lebanon and the Press statements dated 19 December 2016, 27 March 2018, 9 August 2018,

*Welcoming* the progress towards reactivation of the Lebanese state institutions and the recent holding of legislative elections, the first Parliamentary elections since 2009, and calling for the formation of a new Lebanese Government without further delay,

*Responding* to the request of the Government of Lebanon to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a period of one year without amendment presented in a letter from the Lebanese Foreign Minister to the Secretary-General of 23 July 2018 and welcoming the letter from the Secretary-General to its President of 30 July 2018 (S/2018/750) recommending this extension,

*Reiterating* its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon,

*Reaffirming* its commitment to the full implementation of all provisions of resolution 1701 (2006), and aware of its responsibilities to help secure a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution as envisioned in the resolution,

*Expressing concern* at the limited progress made towards the establishment of a permanent ceasefire and other key provisions of resolution 1701 (2006) more than ten years after its adoption,

*Calling upon* all concerned parties to strengthen their efforts, including by exploring concrete solutions with the Special Coordinator of the Secretary-General and the UNIFIL Force Commander, to fully implement all provisions of resolution 1701 (2006) without delay,

*Expressing* deep concern at all violations in connection with resolution 1701 (2006) as underlined by the Secretary-General in his reports, and recalling the importance of control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory,

*Underlining* the risk that violations of the cessation of hostilities could lead to a new conflict that none of the parties or the region can afford,



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*Urging* all parties to make every effort to ensure that the cessation of hostilities is sustained, exercise maximum calm and restraint and refrain from any action or rhetoric that could jeopardize the cessation of hostilities or destabilize the region,

*Emphasizing* to all parties the importance of full compliance with the prohibition on sales and supply of arms and related materiel established by resolution 1701 (2006),

*Recalling* the utmost importance that all parties concerned respect the Blue Line in its entirety, *welcoming* the continued progress in the marking of the Blue Line, and *encouraging* the parties to accelerate their efforts in coordination with UNIFIL, including through the tripartite mechanism, to continue working in the ongoing process to delineate and visibly mark the Blue Line in its entirety, as well as to move forward on the marking of its points of contention, as recommended by the Strategic Review,

*Condemning* in the strongest terms all attempts to threaten the security and stability of Lebanon,

*Reaffirming* its determination to ensure that no such acts of intimidation prevent UNIFIL from implementing its mandate in accordance with Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), *recalling* the necessity for all parties to ensure that UNIFIL personnel are secure and their freedom of movement is fully respected and unimpeded, and *condemning* in the strongest terms the attack against UNIFIL forces on 4 August 2018 near the town of Majdal Zun, Southern Lebanon,

*Expressing* concerns about the visits of non-Lebanese militia leaders along the Blue Line, and *reiterating* the importance of the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1559 (2004) and resolution 1680 (2006), and of the relevant provisions of the Taif Accords,

*Encouraging* all Lebanese parties to resume discussions towards a consensus on a National Defence Strategy as set out by the President of Lebanon in his statement of 12 March 2018, in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions and the Taif Agreement,

*Recalling* the relevant principles contained in the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,

*Commending* the active role and dedication of the personnel of UNIFIL and expressing its strong appreciation to Member States that contribute to UNIFIL and *underlining* the necessity that UNIFIL has at its disposal all necessary means and equipment to carry out its mandate,

*Recalling* the request from the Government of Lebanon to deploy an international force to assist it to exercise its authority throughout the territory, and *reaffirming* UNIFIL's authority to take all necessary action in areas of operations of its forces and as it deems within its capabilities, to ensure that its area of operations is not utilized for hostile activities of any kind and to resist attempts by forceful means to prevent it from discharging its mandate,

*Welcoming* the crucial role played by the Lebanese Armed Forces and security forces, as the only legitimate armed forces in Lebanon, in extending and sustaining the authority of the Government of Lebanon, in particular in southern Lebanon, and responding to other security challenges, including the threat of terrorism, and the strong international commitment to support the Lebanese Armed Forces, which has helped strengthen the capability of the Lebanese Armed Forces to provide security for Lebanon, and further noting the relevance of this increased capacity in relation to their efforts to coordinate with UNIFIL in the implementation of the UNIFIL mandate,

*Recalling* resolution 2378 (2017) and its request of the Secretary-General to ensure that data related to the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, including peacekeeping performance data, is used to improve analytics and the evaluation of mission operations, based on clear and well identified benchmarks, and *emphasizing* the need to regularly evaluate UNIFIL's performance such that the mission retains the skills and flexibility needed to effectively carry out its mandate,

*Also recalling* resolution 2242 (2015) and its request of the Secretary-General to initiate, in collaboration with Member States, a revised strategy, within existing resources, to double the number of women in military and police contingents of UN peacekeeping operations,

*Recognizing* the need to regularly review all peacekeeping operations to ensure efficiency and effectiveness, *including* reviews of UNIFIL when appropriate, taking into account developments on the ground,

*Bearing in mind* the strategic priorities and recommendations identified by the Secretary-General in his letter of 12 March 2012 (S/2012/151) as a result of the Strategic Review of UNIFIL, *taking note* of his letter of 8 March 2017 (S/2017/202) as a result of the most recent Strategic Review of UNIFIL, and *expressing* the need for a follow-up and update,

*Calling upon* Member States to assist the Lebanese Armed Forces as needed to enable it to perform its duties in line with resolution 1701 (2006),

*Determining* that the situation in Lebanon continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

1. *Decides* to extend the present mandate of UNIFIL until 31 August 2019;

2. *Commends* the positive role of UNIFIL, whose deployment together with the Lebanese Armed Forces has helped to establish a new strategic environment in southern Lebanon, *welcomes* the expansion of coordinated activities between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces, and *calls* for further enhancement of this cooperation without prejudice to UNIFIL's mandate;

3. *Affirms* its strong continuing commitment to the existing UNIFIL mandate and *calls* for the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006);

4. *Reiterates* its call for Israel and Lebanon to support a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution based on the principles and elements set out in paragraph 8 of resolution 1701 (2006);

5. *Reaffirms* the necessity of an effective and durable deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces in southern Lebanon and the territorial waters of Lebanon at an accelerated pace to fully implement the provisions of resolution 1701 (2006) and requests the Secretary-General to include in his future reports assessments of progress made in this regard and *calls* for renewed engagement of UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces in the Strategic Dialogue, which aims at carrying out analysis of ground forces and maritime assets and setting a series of benchmarks reflecting the correlation between the capacities and responsibilities of UNIFIL vis-à-vis those of the Lebanese Armed Forces;

6. *Recalls* its request for precise timelines to be jointly and promptly elaborated by the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Secretary-General, for the deployments in paragraph 5, with a view to identifying Lebanese Armed Forces progress in implementing tasks mandated in resolution 1701 (2006);

7. *Calls* for the Government of Lebanon to develop a plan to increase its naval capabilities, including with appropriate support from the international community, with the goal of ultimately decreasing UNIFIL's Maritime Taskforce and

transitioning its responsibilities to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), in close conjunction with the effective build-up of the capabilities of the Lebanese Navy, and *requests* that the Secretary-General present to the Security Council an assessment with recommendations within 6 months;

8. *Encourages* the intention of the Government of Lebanon to deploy a model regiment and an offshore patrol vessel in UNIFIL's area of operations to advance the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and the authority of the Lebanese State, *recalls* in this regard the joint statement issued at the end of the 15 March Rome Conference, in particular Lebanon's concept for a new Model Regiment proposed in the context of the ongoing Strategic Dialogue between the LAF and UNIFIL, *notes* Lebanon's proposed timeline for the deployment of the Model Regiment, and *calls* on the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL to strengthen their coordinated actions;

9. *Urges* further international support for the Lebanese Armed Forces and all state security institutions, who are the only legitimate armed forces of Lebanon, in response to the capabilities development plan of the Lebanese Armed Forces, as well as in the framework of the International Support Group for Lebanon, through additional and expedited assistance in areas where the Lebanese Armed Forces are most critically in need of support, including counter-terrorism and border protection;

10. *Condemns* all violations of the Blue Line and *strongly calls upon* all parties to respect the cessation of hostilities, to prevent any violation of the Blue Line and to respect it in its entirety, and to cooperate fully with the United Nations and UNIFIL;

11. *Welcomes* the constructive role played by the Tripartite Mechanism in facilitating coordination and in de-escalating tensions, and recognizes the mission leadership's active efforts, which has helped to further stabilize the situation along the Blue Line and build trust between the parties, and *expresses* in this regard strong support for the continued efforts of UNIFIL to engage with both parties to facilitate liaison, coordination, and practical arrangements on the ground and to continue to ensure that the Tripartite Mechanism enables the parties to discuss a wider range of issues;

12. *Stresses* the need to improve the management of UNIFIL civilian resources, including through fostering enhanced cooperation with the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL), with the goal of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the missions, and *requests* that the Secretary-General provide recommendations on the matter by 31 December 2018;

13. *Urges* all parties to abide scrupulously by their obligation to respect the safety of UNIFIL and other United Nations personnel and calls for further cooperation between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces in particular regarding coordinated and adjacent patrols, welcomes the commitment of the Lebanese authorities to protect UNIFIL movements and reiterates its call for the rapid finalization of the investigation launched by Lebanon regarding the 27 May, 26 July and 9 December 2011 attacks in order to bring to justice the perpetrators of these attacks;

14. *Urges* all parties to ensure that the freedom of movement of UNIFIL and UNIFIL's access to the Blue Line in all its parts is fully respected and unimpeded, in conformity with its mandate and its rules of engagement, including by avoiding any course of action which endangers United Nations personnel, condemns all attempts to restrict the freedom of movement of UNIFIL's personnel;

15. *Urges* all parties to cooperate fully with the Security Council and the Secretary-General to make tangible progress towards a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution as envisioned in resolution 1701 (2006) and on all outstanding issues in the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1701 (2006), 1680 (2006) and 1559 (2004), and other relevant Security Council resolutions;

16. *Urges* the Government of Israel to expedite the withdrawal of its army from northern Ghajar without further delay in coordination with UNIFIL, which has actively engaged Israel and Lebanon to facilitate such a withdrawal;

17. *Reaffirms* its call on all States to fully support and respect the establishment between the Blue Line and the Litani River of an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL;

18. *Recalls* paragraph 15 of resolution 1701 (2006) according to which all States shall take the necessary measures to prevent, by their nationals or from their territories or using flag vessels or aircraft, the sale or supply of arms and related materiel to any entity or individual in Lebanon other than those authorized by the Government of Lebanon or UNIFIL;

19. Acting in support of a request from the Government of Lebanon to deploy an international force to assist it to exercise its authority throughout the territory, *recalls its authorization* to UNIFIL to take all necessary action in areas of deployment of its forces and as it deems within its capabilities, to ensure that its area of operations is not utilized for hostile activities of any kind, to resist attempts by forceful means to prevent it from discharging its duties under the mandate of the Security Council, and to protect United Nations personnel, facilities, installations and equipment, ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations personnel, humanitarian workers and, without prejudice to the responsibility of the Government of Lebanon, to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence;

20. *Commends* UNIFIL's operational changes in line with resolution 2373 (2017) and *reiterates* its request that the Secretary-General look at ways to enhance UNIFIL's efforts as regards paragraph 12 of resolution 1701 (2006) and paragraph 14 of this resolution, including ways to increase UNIFIL's visible presence, including through patrols and inspections, within its existing mandate and capabilities;

21. *Recalls* the decision that UNIFIL shall assist the government of Lebanon, at its request, as set out in paragraph 14 of resolution 1701 (2006) and within its capabilities, to implement resolution 1701 (2006);

22. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by UNIFIL to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;

23. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to standardize a culture of performance in UN peacekeeping, *calls* on him to continue his efforts to develop an integrated performance policy framework and apply it to UNIFIL, and *requests* the Secretary-General and the troop-contributing countries to seek to increase the number of women in UNIFIL, as well as to ensure the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of operations;

24. *Requests* UNIFIL to take fully into account gender considerations as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Lebanese authorities in ensuring the full and effective participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels of decision-making, further requests enhanced reporting by UNIFIL to the Security Council on this issue;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the Council on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), every four months, or at any time as he

deems appropriate, and to include in his reporting a prompt and detailed breakdown of all resolution 1701 (2006) violations, prompt and detailed reports on violations of the sovereignty of Lebanon, prompt and detailed reports on the restrictions to UNIFIL's freedom of movement, an annex on the implementation on the arms embargo, reports on specific areas where UNIFIL does not access and on the reasons behind these restrictions, potential risks to the cessation of hostilities and UNIFIL's response as well as reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2016–2017 Strategic review and on additional identified efficiencies to most appropriately fulfil its mandated tasks; *requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide concrete and detailed information on the aforementioned issues to the Council, in line with changes to enhance reporting since the adoption of resolution 2373 (2017);

26. *Stresses* the importance of, and the need to achieve, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on all its relevant resolutions including its resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003 and 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008;

27. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2018/797

# Security Council

Distr.: General
31 August 2018

Original: English

## Note by the President of the Security Council

At its 8335th meeting, held on 30 August 2018, the Security Council considered its draft report to the General Assembly covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017. The Council adopted the draft report without a vote.

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United Nations S/2018/798

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 September 2018
English
Original: Russian

**Letter dated 29 August 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for 28 and 29 August 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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## Annex to the letter dated 29 August 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (28 August 2018)

### Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 27 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 14 in Aleppo, 10 in Ladhiqiyah, 2 in Idlib and 1 in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has reported one incident of gunfire in Aleppo Governorate.

### Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has carried out one humanitarian operation.

Four hundred and fifty food parcels with a total weight of 1.9 tons were distributed to residents of Arzah, Hama Governorate.

In total, 1,909 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,944.81 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 151 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 90,673 residents.

### Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

## Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (29 August 2018)

### Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The number of violations of the ceasefire regime by illegal armed groups active in the Idlib de-escalation area has remained high.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 26 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 13 in Ladhiqiyah, 12 in Aleppo and 1 in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has reported one incident of gunfire in Hama Governorate.

### Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has carried out one humanitarian operation.

In Umm al-Mayadin, Dar'a Governorate, 250 food parcels weighing 1.1 tons were distributed.

In total, 1,910 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,945.91 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 67 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 90,740 residents.

### Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations S/2018/799

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 August 2018
English
Original: Russian

# Letter dated 29 August 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Russian Federation notes that, in accordance with the guidelines for the conduct of the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in particular paragraph 5 (a) thereof, decisions of that subsidiary body of the Council are taken exclusively on the basis of consensus.

During the Committee's meeting of 24 August 2018, the Russian Federation objected to the adoption of the agenda for the meeting. The Chair of the Committee disregarded the lack of consensus on the issue and continued the meeting. Moreover, he proposed to those members of the Committee that disagreed with his actions that a voting procedure be followed, with reference to the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, which have nothing to do with the work of the Committee. In that connection, we consider that the Chair exceeded his authority and breached the guidelines of the Committee for the conduct of its work.

In view of the above, the Russian Federation wishes to reiterate its position to the members of the Security Council, as follows. The decision of the Chair of the Committee concerning the agenda for the meeting, which was taken in breach of the Committee's guidelines, is invalid and cannot constitute a precedent for the taking of decisions in the future. We therefore take the view that the Committee's meeting of 24 August 2018 ended after the discussion of agenda item 1, "Adoption of the agenda", as the agenda was not approved.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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United Nations S/2018/800

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 August 2018

Original: English

# Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia

## I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 28 of Security Council resolution 2408 (2018) and paragraph 55 of resolution 2431 (2018), provides information on the implementation of both resolutions, including on the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS). The report covers major developments in Somalia during the period 25 April to 22 August 2018.

## II. Political, security and economic overview

### A. Political developments

2. The inauguration on 10 May of the new Speaker of the House of the People, Mohamed Mursal Sheikh Abdirahman, following his election in April, marked the end of the political impasse of the previous months. At his inauguration, Mr. Mursal outlined his legislative priorities for the House, including the delivery of a legal framework for multiparty elections, an intergovernmental relations bill and the completion of the review of the Provisional Federal Constitution. Parliament began its recess on 9 July and will resume on 10 September.

3. The National Security Council, comprising the leaders of the Federal Government and federal member states, met in Baidoa from 3 to 5 June. They reached a political agreement in principle on an electoral model based on a proportional representation and closed party list system, in addition to an agreement on ownership, administration and sharing of revenues from petroleum and minerals. At the meeting, federal member states continued to express their concern at the lack of resources allocated to them by the Federal Government. Prior to the meeting of the National Security Council, the Presidents of the federal member states had held the second meeting of the Council of Interstate Cooperation from 13 to 16 May in Baidoa. While welcoming the transition plan and recognizing the progress made in discussions on elections and resource-sharing, they urged the Federal Government to provide support for regional forces and indicated their desire to retain the right to seek external support.

4. On 16 June, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed Ali, made a first official visit to Mogadishu, which resulted in a joint commitment by the two countries to strengthen cooperation, including through joint investments in four seaports in

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Somalia. The release on 28 June of the senior commander of the Ogaden National Liberation Front, who had been arrested in Somalia and transferred to Ethiopia on 28 August 2017, was a further indication of improved bilateral relations. Prompted by improved relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia, the President of Somalia, Mohamed Abdullahi "Farmajo", at the invitation of the President of Eritrea, Isaias Afwerki, visited Asmara for the first time. On 30 July, the two leaders agreed to establish diplomatic ties and promote bilateral relations.

5. In Galmudug, a division in the leadership, with State President Ahmed Duale Gelle "Haaf" and Chief State Minister Sheikh Mohamed Shakir on one side, and State Vice-President Mohamed Hashi Abdi "Arrabey" and state assembly speaker Ali Gaal Asir on the other side, deepened owing to a disagreement over the implementation of the power-sharing agreement signed in Mogadishu on 6 December 2017. The key concerns are that the new assembly violates the regional clan balance and that several contentious articles feature in the new State Constitution. The State Vice-President remained in Adado, maintaining a parallel governance structure, while President Haaf and the Chief Minister ran the state government from Dhusamareb, the official capital. On 13 July, the President of Somalia facilitated talks between the two parties in Mogadishu, where they reached a mutual understanding on the necessity to observe the power-sharing agreement. Further negotiations between the two sides, facilitated by the Federal Government, were ongoing. On 22 July, my Special Representative for Somalia and the Commissioner of the Somali Police Force visited Gaalkacyo, where the Somali-owned peace process, along with Gaalkacyo joint police patrols and the work of the peace committee formed by prominent clan elders and civil society representatives, have contributed to establishing peace and restoring security.

6. Meanwhile, political tensions continued between the President of Jubaland, Ahmed Mohamed Islam "Madobe", and the Federal Government. On 13 July in Lower Juba, the newly appointed commander of the Somali National Army 43rd Division, General Ali Mohamed Mohamoud "Bogmadow", was denied entry into Kismaayo by the Jubaland Administration, which contested his appointment by the Federal Government, claiming that the Jubaland Administration was not consulted. On 14 August, the newly appointed National Intelligence and Security Agency commander for Jubaland and his deputy were also denied entry into Kismaayo and deported for the same reason.

7. Political rivalry intensified in the South-West state ahead of the 17 November 2018 state presidential election. Opposition blocs raised concerns that the President of South-West state, Sharif Hassan, had been planning to hold the election in Barawe, Lower Shabelle region, instead of Baidoa, Bay region, which is the current seat of the administration. They warned that shifting the venue could split the state assembly and lead to parallel elections. Responding to those concerns, the speaker of the state assembly affirmed that the election would take place in Baidoa and requested the assistance of the United Nations and AMISOM in providing training and temporary shelter for police units tasked with securing the process. The speaker further stated that he would appoint an electoral committee composed of state assembly members to draft the rules of procedure and oversee the election.

8. Little progress was made on efforts to restart talks between the Federal Government and "Somaliland". The distancing of the two was triggered by a full transfer on 30 June of air space control from the International Civil Aviation Organization office in Nairobi to Mogadishu, and the Federal Government's objection letter to donors regarding the "Somaliland" special arrangement — which had been put in place in 2013 alongside the New Deal Compact to ensure a certain share of international support was allocated to "Somaliland". On 1 July, during the fifty-eighth Independence Day celebrations, President Farmajo reiterated his call for talks between Somalia and "Somaliland".

9. The Federal Government, Sweden and the European Union hosted the Somalia Partnership Forum in Brussels on 16 and 17 July. The Forum brought together representatives from 58 countries and 6 international organizations. Key outcomes included the endorsement of the political road map for Somalia by international partners, support for the transition plan, approval of the updated mutual accountability framework and support for the efforts of Somalia to strengthen its resilience against humanitarian shocks, as manifested by the recovery and resilience framework. Participants underscored the need to finalize the electoral model and make progress towards finalizing the constitutional review, ensure greater political participation of women, young people and marginalized groups and build trust through reconciliation. Side events also took place on displacement and durable solutions; women, peace and security; and innovative financing mechanisms for development. The Forum agreed to reconvene in early 2019.

## B. Security developments

10. The overall security situation remained volatile and unpredictable. Al-Shabaab-related attacks continued across Somalia, and incidents carried out by alleged pro-Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) elements were also reported. There were fewer security incidents during Ramadan compared with previous years. However, there were incidents ranging from targeted killings and "hit and run" attacks on Somali National Army bases by small teams in Mogadishu to larger-scale attacks against army bases in other regions.

11. Heightened tensions between "Somaliland" and Puntland led to outbreaks of violence on 15 and 24 May, near Tukaraq, in the disputed Sool region. The military confrontation resulted in several casualties and the displacement of about 15,000 civilians. With large-scale deployments of security forces or militias, as well as provocative statements by both "Somaliland" and Puntland, the situation continued to be extremely volatile. Since 28 May, there had also been several demonstrations in Sool and Sanaag against the "Somaliland" government.

12. On 1 July, five mortars landed near the Al-Jazeera gate of Mogadishu International Airport. At least 5 civilians were killed and 19 injured. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility, stating that they had been targeting the airport. The attacks, carried out on the national Independence Day of Somalia, during which extensive security measures had been implemented across Mogadishu, demonstrated Al-Shabaab's continued operational capability. On 26 July, the Cabinet approved the assignment of security responsibilities in Mogadishu to the 14 October Contingent, a unit formed in the aftermath of the 14 October 2017 attack in Mogadishu, working under the federal police command.

13. On 7 July, two cars laden with explosives drove at intervals into the collocated premises of the Ministry of Internal Security and the Ministry of the Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, in Mogadishu. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack, in which 7 civilians were killed, including 3 senior staff of the Ministry of the Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, and 27 were injured. The attack also destroyed the premises.

14. On 14 July, Al-Shabaab attempted another complex attack close to the Hotel SYL and Mogadishu peace gardens, where the main checkpoint controlling the entry to Villa Somalia was located. Al-Shabaab claimed that the attack had targeted the Villa Somalia. Two vehicles carrying improvised explosive devices and three gunmen were involved, which left at least six people dead. The Hotel SYL, where the Ministry of the Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation was temporary located, was also badly damaged.

15. Pro-ISIL elements also claimed responsibility for three assassinations in Mogadishu in May and six incidents in June, including an attack using a remote-controlled improvised explosive device in which three soldiers were killed in Mogadishu and five in other areas of the country. In Puntland, attacks from Al-Shabaab or alleged pro-ISIL elements against Somali security forces continued in the Bari region. On 29 May, pro-ISIL elements and state police clashed in the village of Anjeel, near the town of Qandala in the Bari region. They exchanged gunfire until pro-ISIL fighters retreated to the mountain north of Anjeel.

16. On 2 May, two international staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were abducted from their office in Mogadishu by unknown armed men. The male staff member was released shortly after, while the female staff member was reportedly moved to an area near the coastal town of Hobyo, Mudug region. As a result, ICRC reduced its operations in Somalia starting on 30 July. Negotiations for the release of the female staff member are ongoing.

17. In the Lower Shabelle, Lower Juba and Gedo regions, anti-Al-Shabaab operations continued. On 24 May, 10 Al-Shabaab militants were killed by an air strike outside Afgoye district. On 9 June, the Somali National Army, AMISOM and American forces, operating at an outpost near Sunguuni settlement, Lower Juba region, were attacked by Al-Shabaab. On 23 July, Al-Shabaab staged a complex attack against the Sanguni Base in Bar-Sunguuni, Lower Juba region, using vehicles containing improvised explosive devices. The exact number of casualties could not be determined, but some sources reported that four Somali soldiers and eight Al-Shabaab militants were killed.

18. Clan violence continued across Somalia. On 9 May, in El-Afweyn district, Sanaag region, at least 12 people were killed in clashes between the Habar-jelo subclan of Bi-ide and the Habar Yunis subclan of Saad at Garaad Dhidhin, prompting a public call from the "Somaliland" President to resolve the issue through dialogue. Clashes among intra-Somali security forces also continued and were reported mainly in Mogadishu and Hiraan region. Alleged Al-Shabaab attacks, particularly targeted assassinations, increased in the disputed Sool region, possibly due to Al-Shabaab's exploitation of the Tukaraq conflict to expand its presence in "Somaliland" and Puntland.

19. On 4 August, in Lasanod, Sool region, unknown individuals shot a staff member of the World Health Organization outside her home. The staff member was recovering in medical care.

## C. Economic developments

20. Following the drought impact needs assessment exercise, the Federal Government and international partners prepared the recovery and resilience framework, which was presented at the Somalia Partnership Forum. The Federal Government is spearheading efforts to stimulate resilience-building, diversify the economy, promote climate-smart investments and mitigate investment-related risks. The Forum acknowledged the need for innovative financial models and recognized the role that development finance institutions could have in supporting the reconstruction and recovery of Somalia.

21. The Central Bank of Somalia completed the first phase of its road map for comprehensive national currency reform and is seeking financial support for minting the Somali shilling before April 2019. The Federal Government is establishing a centralized mechanism for all government licensing and payments of fees to improve business.

22. Somalia continued to build a track record of reforms under the Staff-Monitored Programme of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In the second review of the second Programme in May 2018, the authorities gave a satisfactory performance by demonstrating its continued commitment to implementing reform measures in a very difficult environment. IMF confirmed that Somalia had: (a) made progress in building institutions and improving economic performance; (b) improved fiscal management, including domestic revenue mobilization; (c) laid the foundation for sustainable financial sector development and strengthened compliance with anti-money-laundering, and for combating the financing of terrorism; and (d) made progress towards the launch of a new national currency. They agreed on a third Staff-Monitored Programme covering the period from May 2018 to April 2019, aimed at maintaining the reform momentum and macroeconomic stability.

# III. Support for peacebuilding and State-building efforts

## A. Establishment of a functional federal State

### 1. Deepening federalism

23. Some progress was made in advancing federalism, despite lingering friction between the Federal Government and the federal member states. On 5 June, during a meeting of the National Security Council in Baidoa, the leaders of the Federal Government, federal member states and Benaadir Regional Administration reached an agreement on sharing natural resources, including details on the ownership, administration and sharing of revenues from petroleum and minerals between the Federal Government, federal member states, districts and producers.

### 2. Constitutional review

24. From 13 to 15 May, the National Constitutional Convention was held in Mogadishu with the participation of the Federal Government leadership and representatives from the federal member states. The convention brought together more than 300 participants from across the country, diaspora and civil society, including women's organizations, the United Nations and the international community. It provided an unprecedented opportunity to deepen and broaden ownership of the review process and build consensus around principles and timelines for an inclusive, Somali-owned review process. Addressing the Convention, the Prime Minister, Hassan Ali Khaire, described the constitutional review as a critical opportunity to promote unity. UNSOM also facilitated the participation of the Somali women diaspora in the Convention.

25. Building on the momentum generated by the Convention, a joint retreat was held on 4 and 5 July, co-chaired by the Minister for Constitutional Affairs and the Minister for the Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation. It brought together key political stakeholders, including members of the Federalization Negotiation Technical Committee, to enhance coordination and alignment of tasks in the implementation of the road map on inclusive politics. The retreat was opened by the Prime Minister and included discussions on the legislative and constitutional implications of the political agreements reached so far, and on the priorities for the coming months. A retreat was subsequently convened by the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs in Nairobi from 13 to 20 August and discussed, among other topics, the allocation of powers and justice in a federal Somalia.

### 3. Prevention and resolution of conflicts

26. To help defuse tensions between "Somaliland" and Puntland in Tukaraq, my Special Representative undertook several visits to Garoowe and Hargeisa in May and July. In Garoowe, he engaged with Puntland President Abdiweli Mohamed Ali "Gaas" and Vice President Abdihakim Abdullahi Haji Omar. In Hargeisa, he discussed with "Somaliland" President Muse Bihi Abdi and his Ministers in a bid to facilitate agreement to end violent hostilities.

27. My Special Representative also coordinated messages of the international community to "Somaliland" and Puntland to develop a four-point ceasefire proposal that included an end to hostilities, the initiation of dialogue between military commanders on the ground, secure humanitarian access for displaced persons and the commencement of talks about separation of forces and the exchange of detained security personnel.

28. President Bihi of "Somaliland" accepted the proposal in writing, while Puntland President Gaas, having verbally accepted the proposal to my Special Representative, was reluctant to commit further without assurances concerning the withdrawal of "Somaliland" forces from Tukaraq. From 28 to 30 July, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and UNSOM launched a joint initiative to take mediation efforts forward. In a follow-up visit from 7 to 9 August, a joint IGAD and UNSOM delegation shared with Puntland and "Somaliland" authorities a set of principles that could be the basis for negotiations between the two sides. Though both sides have accepted most of those principles, some issues remain that will require more discussion and clarification.

29. Efforts continued to support the development and implementation of the Federal Government's national reconciliation framework. On 16 May, UNSOM and the Ministry of the Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation co-hosted a special session on reconciliation in Mogadishu, during which the "group of friends of reconciliation" was launched. Based on the outcome of the colloquium on peace and reconciliation that had been held in February 2018, a key recommendation, on establishing the "communities of practice", was discussed in June by representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, the international community and civil society. The communities, expected to include practitioners of conflict resolution, academics and experts on the relevant topics, will offer practical recommendations to Somalis affected by protracted conflict.

### 4. Support for universal elections

30. At its meeting in June, the National Security Council committed to adopting into law by December 2018 the draft electoral law, which would serve as the legal basis for universal multiparty elections in 2020 and 2021. Progress was made on the drafting of the law by the Ministry of the Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, with support from UNSOM. The draft law incorporated the issue of women's representation.

31. During the reporting period, the United Nations continued to support the National Independent Electoral Commission's electoral preparations. From 14 to 16 May, the United Nations held a voter registration workshop for representatives of the Commission and the Federal Government to support the Commission in making an informed decision on voter registration methodology.

32. From June to August, representatives of the National Independent Electoral Commission visited all federal member states and Benaadir to prepare for the establishment of subnational offices, including the recruitment and deployment of staff. In terms of mapping voter data, the Commission is also preparing the nationwide

verification of 1,763 voter catchment areas which could be used as voter registration sites through an intensive field exercise expected to commence in the fourth quarter of 2018.

33. In the context of the strengthened UNSOM electoral mandate, as defined in resolution 2408 (2018), a United Nations electoral needs assessment mission was deployed from 12 to 21 May to assess the progress made since the last mission, and the preparations required for elections. The mission determined that some progress had been made but more resources were needed for the United Nations to support the National Independent Electoral Commission at the subnational level.

## B. Cross-cutting issues

### 1. Gender equality and women's empowerment

34. With the adoption in May of the UNSOM and UNSOS joint gender parity strategy and in June of the United Nations-Somalia gender equality strategy for the period 2018–2020, UNSOM further enhanced its commitment to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in Somalia.

35. In "Somaliland", UNSOM has initiated engagement on women's political advancement in preparation for parliamentary and local elections in March 2019. That engagement included outreach to political parties, relevant ministries and parliamentary committees, and the promotion of civil society engagement. On 7 June, the "Somaliland" Cabinet agreed to ensure that a minimum of 20 per cent of seats would be allocated to women candidates.

36. On 25 and 26 July, with the support of the United Nations, the first state-level consultations on enhancing Somali women's role in peace, reconciliation and the prevention of violent extremism were held in the state capitals of Puntland, Galmudug, South-West state, Jubaland and HirShabelle, mobilizing more than 360 women leaders, peace practitioners, advocates and activists. Senior political figures attended the consultations and emphasized the importance of women's participation in all peace and political processes. My Special Representative joined the meeting in Garoowe and reassured women leaders of the commitment and continued support of the United Nations.

### 2. Youth empowerment

37. Activities for National Youth Day, commemorated on 15 May, included a youth march in Mogadishu led by the Prime Minister and a debate at the Somali National University with 300 youth activists, co-organized by the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. In addition, from 22 to 24 May, AMISOM, with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and with support from UNSOM and IGAD, organized the International Youth Conference on the Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism and Terrorism, held in Cairo, where 30 young Somalis participated.

38. The United Nations supported the "Somaliland" Ministry of Youth and Sports in hosting a workshop on the national youth policy, held on 25 June in Hargeisa.

## C. Development coordination

39. In addition to the Somalia Partnership Forum in July, the Federal Government held a workshop to discuss how to further strengthen the aid architecture of Somalia, the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility, for it to assume a greater

strategic role in coordinating international development assistance and in implementing the national development plan, and to ensure that development partners use established multilateral systems to channel support. Consensus was reached on the importance of using the existing aid architecture of the Facility, continuing implementation of the mutual accountability framework agreed to in December 2017 and the "use of country systems" road map, which encourages international development partners to channel funding through the financial systems of Somalia.

# IV. Comprehensive approach to security

## A. International coordination and transition planning

40. The Federal Government and federal member states presented the transition plan to international partners at the high-level security meeting on Somalia, held in Brussels on 2 May, and received strong support for its strategic direction. Subsequent attention has focused on the development of detailed planning across the entire comprehensive approach to security strands to implement the transition in initial priority locations, including the Mogadishu stadium and the main supply route between Mogadishu and Baidoa. Priorities for institutional capacity-building identified in the national security architecture are also being implemented in the priority locations as a first step to a national roll-out. With regard to the Mogadishu stadium, the Ministry of the Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation and the Benaadir Regional Administration have developed a plan for the implementation of the transition. In recognition of the key role of sports and cultural activities in enhancing social cohesion, the European Union, through the Nordic International Support Foundation, will install solar lights, renovate the venue and provide sports equipment. Regarding the Mogadishu-Baidoa main supply route, the European Union will assist with the implementation of the transition plan, through the International Organization for Migration, through early stabilization to longer-term economic development activities.

41. In a communiqué issued at its June meeting, the National Security Council emphasized the comprehensive nature of the transition plan and requested that regional security offices be strengthened, to support a decentralized planning approach in the implementation of the transition plan. On 3 July, the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility endorsed a joint United Nations security sector governance reform programme as a pipeline project, aimed at building the capacity of various security institutions, including regional security offices.

42. At the Somalia Partnership Forum in July, the Federal Government requested international partners to align their support to the transition plan. They committed to maintaining the momentum of progress while recognizing that some institutional reforms would require a longer time frame to be implemented. International partners urged the Federal Government to continue implementation and complete detailed planning for the first phase of the transition plan by December 2018, through the regional security councils.

## B. Comprehensive approach to security strands

### 1. Strand 1: enabling AMISOM operations and enhancing AMISOM effectiveness

43. During the reporting period, the Head of UNSOS visited the capitals of the AMISOM troop-contributing countries, except Djibouti, as part of an outreach strategy with those countries' foreign affairs and defence ministries regarding UNSOS logistical support to AMISOM. Expressing strong support for the transition plan, the

countries reiterated that the transition plan should be based on capacity-building of the Somali National Army to ensure that security gains made so far are not reversed.

44. In line with the transition plan, preparations are ongoing for the relocation of 545 AMISOM personnel from Mogadishu stadium to Al-Jazeera II and the subsequent handover of the stadium to Somali security forces. UNSOS will reconstruct facilities at the new location and provide the assistance necessary to shift equipment to Al-Jazeera II.

45. On 30 May, the African Union convened a meeting in Addis Ababa with UNSOS representatives and Kenya to discuss the latter's offer of three military utility helicopters. There was agreement on the need for the African Union and United Nations to undertake a joint assessment of aviation requirements in Somalia, followed by the development of a statement of unit requirements for aviation.

46. Major challenges persist for UNSOS owing to the limited use of the main supply routes by AMISOM. UNSOS has largely been delivering essential life support to AMISOM forward locations using its helicopters and barge services.

47. UNSOS remains focused on the operationalization of the mission-enabling units. Its target is to have a total of 280 armoured personnel carriers to, inter alia, help AMISOM open main supply routes in all sectors. Over half of those carriers have been issued by UNSOS, with the support of partners, while the rest are still under procurement.

48. The tripartite memorandum of understanding for the reimbursement of equipment lost in hostile action has been signed by all the troop- and police-contributing countries, except Djibouti and Sierra Leone, and remain under development by the latter two and United Nations Headquarters. Pursuant to their tripartite memorandum, the claims submitted by Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda for equipment lost in hostile action are currently being processed at United Nations Headquarters.

49. UNSOS continues to provide logistical support to the Somali National Army. However, as at 22 August, the Army's trust fund had a balance of $1.2 million, which can only sustain logistical support up to September 2018. Discussions are ongoing with Member States to fill the immediate funding gaps. Similarly, the Trust Fund in support of AMISOM had an uncommitted balance of just $4.9 million.

50. The United Nations Mine Action Service has trained 4,585 AMISOM troops in improvised explosive device search capacity and threat mitigation and explosive ordnance disposal. It has supported AMISOM by providing canine teams to search vehicles, luggage and key infrastructure to detect explosives. In total, 14 improvised explosive devices have been safely identified along the main supply routes, of which 12 were destroyed by AMISOM teams trained by the Mine Action Service.

51. From 10 to 19 May, the African Union and United Nations conducted a joint review of AMISOM to examine how the Mission should be reconfigured in support of the transition plan. The Peace and Security Council of the African Union considered the findings and recommendations of the review in its 782nd meeting, held on 27 June. On 30 July, the Security Council adopted its resolution 2431 (2018), in which it extended the Mission's mandate until 31 May 2019 and requested the African Union and United Nations to conduct a joint operational readiness assessment of AMISOM, which commenced on 17 August 2018 and is expected to be completed by mid-September. A review of the AMISOM concept of operations is planned to be conducted soon after.

### 2. Strand 2: strengthening Somali security institutions

52. Some progress was made in reforming the Somali National Army, as the Federal Government advanced the implementation of recommendations for operational readiness assessments. That assessment for regional forces has concluded in Galmudug, is ongoing in Jubaland and South-West state and will start in Puntland in mid-September. The Integrated Security Sector Reform Team of UNSOM and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported Parliament's defence committee to review a draft bill on pensions and gratuities for members of the Somali Armed Forces and other security services, in line with the national security architecture and the transition plan.

53. UNSOM and UNDP continued to support the conference of ministers of internal security, the council of police commissioners and the joint technical committee to implement the new policing model. To develop a federal police plan, a drafting team was established, alongside the Somali Police Force and the Federal Ministry of Internal Security. On 11 June, the joint police programme was launched to implement the new policing model. With a budget of $42 million over four years, the programme will bring together all major donors in the police sector and be instrumental in strengthening the coordination of international support.

54. UNSOM and UNDP developed a joint rule-of-law programme to support the overall framework of the "Somaliland" national development plan for the period 2017–2021. During the first phase, the programme will support community policing, training on human rights and sexual and gender-based violence, the development of a parole system and awareness-raising for police officers on the new "Somaliland" Police Act.

55. The Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility approved the joint justice and corrections services and the security sector governance programmes for the period 2018–2020, on 23 May and 3 July, respectively. Technical elements of the justice and corrections model, including on jurisdiction, are due to be approved at the next meeting of the National Security Council. Nevertheless, the Federal Government and federal member states continued consultations to support the development of implementation plans for the justice and corrections model at the federal and state levels.

56. On 27 May, the President dismissed the Chief Justice, while the Presidents of the Benaadir Regional and Appeal Courts were replaced on 19 July.

57. An UNSOM-UNDP integrated security sector reform team hosted a strategic planning workshop for staff of the Office of National Security, to frame the institutional development and capacity-building support in the context of the United Nations security sector governance programme.

58. The Mine Action Service further deployed community liaison officers to 67 villages in recovered districts across the southern and central regions to deliver risk education sessions about explosive hazards. The officers delivered 368 sessions to a total of 6,069 beneficiaries. Meanwhile, civilian clearance teams trained by the Mine Action Service safely destroyed 141 items of unexploded ordnance and 568 free-from-explosives devices.

### 3. Strand 3: community recovery and the extension of state authority and accountability

59. At a high-level security meeting on Somalia held in Brussels on 2 May, the Ministry of the Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation proposed the development of a local model for transition in priority areas of South-West state and the Benaadir region. The Ministry underscored that realistic, analysis-driven, strategically

sequenced stabilization responses throughout military operations would be important to enable the Federal Government to earn the support of the local population and deliver public services. Under the leadership of the Ministry, with the support of the United Nations, it was agreed to start preparatory activities in districts under the control of the South-West state administration prior to military operations. Those activities included enabling access and freedom of movement, extending effective government presence and activities that enhance social cohesion and reconciliation, and enhancing research, analysis and strategic communications.

60. In May, the Ministries of the Interior of HirShabelle, Galmudug, Jubaland and South-West state finalized an outline of state stabilization plans for their respective priority areas.

#### 4. Strand 4: preventing and countering violent extremism

61. Following the establishment of a national coordination office for preventing and countering violent extremism within the Office of the Prime Minister, the national coordinator for preventing and countering violent extremism identified the main priorities for further progress, with the support of UNSOM and the international community. Those priorities include an implementation plan for international legal frameworks, including the global counter-terrorism strategy and the international counter-terrorism instruments; the development of a methodology for consultation with civil society, the private sector and the Somali diaspora; and the development of a communications plan to prevent radicalization and recruitment.

62. The United Nations has developed a comprehensive support package, approved by the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility on 3 July, to strengthen the capacity of Somalia to implement the national strategy for preventing and countering violent extremism and relevant resolutions of United Nations bodies. On 28 and 29 June, UNSOM, as the first Mission with a specific mandate on preventing and countering violent extremism, participated in the United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, held in New York, and emphasized the importance of a comprehensive, sustainable approach to human security in Somalia.

63. UNSOM continues to support the Federal Government in implementing the national programme for the treatment and handling of disengaged combatants, including through establishment and facilitation of coordination mechanisms in Baidoa and Kismaayo between the Federal Government and federal member states. During the reporting period, the three rehabilitation centres for low-risk Al-Shabaab defectors supported 69 defectors in Mogadishu, 110 in Baidoa and 122 in Kismaayo.

## V. Human rights and protection

### A. Human rights

64. During the reporting period, 373 civilian casualties were recorded, of whom 196, or 52 per cent, were attributed to Al-Shabaab. Three casualties were attributed to non-AMISOM international forces, 90 to state security forces and 54 to clan militia.

65. Three air strikes by unidentified aircraft in Jubaland resulted in the death of one civilian and wounding of four civilians. Four executions following death sentences were carried out in Jubaland, and 20 death sentences were handed down (10 in Puntland, 4 in Jubaland, 4 in Benaadir and 2 in South-West state), a significant increase compared with the previous reporting period.

66. In total, 66 individuals were arrested for issues related to the rights to freedom of expression and of assembly, including three journalists, one civil society activist in Puntland and one clan elder in "Somaliland". Three television stations and one newspaper outlet were banned, while one of the television stations remains under suspension in "Somaliland". On a positive note, the licenses of two media outlets that had been previously revoked were reinstated in "Somaliland" and a female poet who had been sentenced to three years' imprisonment in Hargeisa was released following a presidential pardon.

## B. Compliance with the Human Rights due diligence policy

67. UNOPS and UNSOM supported international human rights law and international humanitarian law briefings by 20 Somali National Army instructors, trained by UNSOM, for 2,697 Somali National Army soldiers eligible for stipend payments in sector 3, South-West state. UNOPS updated the soldiers' biometric profiles as part of the human rights due diligence policy mitigatory measures. UNSOM organized two round tables with those United Nations entities that support non-United Nations security forces working on mainstreaming the human rights due diligence policy within the comprehensive approach to security strands. Participants agreed to advocate for the inclusion of the policy within the comprehensive approach to the security agenda. The AMISOM-United Nations joint working group on the policy convened and discussed progress on the implementation of mitigatory measures related to AMISOM and Somali security forces. Transition planning meetings were organized in coordination with AMISOM discussing, inter alia, how to mainstream measures promoting compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law in joint Somali National Army-AMISOM operations. In compliance with its own obligations under the human rights due diligence policy, the Mine Action Service organized a briefing on the policy for its personnel and discussed how to implement it within the framework of its support to AMISOM and Somali security forces.

## C. Children in armed conflict

68. The country task force on monitoring and reporting verified 1,426 grave violations affecting 1,239 children, including 168 girls. The violations included the recruitment or use of 723 children, 207 child casualties, the abduction of 400 children and rape or other sexual violence committed against 79 children. In addition, it verified eight attacks against schools and one against a hospital as well as seven incidents of denial of humanitarian access.

69. A total of 31,532 people, including 16,610 children, of whom 8,033 were girls, benefited from protection services supported by the United Nations Children's Fund, including psychosocial support services. In total, 817 children formerly associated with armed forces and groups, including 96 girls, were enrolled into reintegration programmes.

## D. Prevention of sexual violence

70. Gender-based violence remains a key protection concern, as over 80 per cent of recorded incidents have affected internally displaced persons, and 96 per cent of the survivors of such violence are women and girls. As at 15 August, 40 cases of conflict-related sexual violence had been reported during the reporting period, involving elements of the Somali National Army, regional security forces, clan militias and

Al-Shabaab. Significantly, the Federal Government Cabinet approved the sexual offences bill on 30 May. UNSOM worked closely with govemment counterparts and civil society to develop the bill.

## VI. Humanitarian situation

71. Contrary to earlier forecasts of a below-average *Gu* rainy season, consistent and heavy levels of rainfall that exceeded a 50-year return period for flood magnitude, have seen Somalia start to emerge from its prolonged drought. The significant rainfall resulted in flash and riverine flooding throughout central and southern Somalia, affecting some 830,000 people and resulting in the temporary displacement of 300,000 people.

72. On 21 May, a further 228,000 people were affected by Cyclone Sagar in the north, where the armed standoff between "Somaliland" and Puntland in the Sool region had displaced thousands prior to the storm. Cyclone Sagar hit western "Somaliland", resulting in more than 70 deaths, the displacement of approximately 170,000 people, the loss of thousands of livestock and extensive damage to agriculture and infrastructure. The emergency response system of "Somaliland" provided immediate relief to those areas affected, supported by United Nations agencies, non-governmental organization and the international community.

73. The latest projection indicates an improving food security situation in areas that were affected by the 2016–2017 drought. The improvement is largely due to the above-average *Gu* rainy season, from April to June, supported by large-scale humanitarian assistance. However, humanitarian needs remain critical. Some 5.4 million people, including 2.8 million children, require assistance. Some 2.5 million of them require urgent assistance. Partners are reaching more than two million people per month with food assistance. More than 1.2 million children under the age of five are projected to be malnourished in 2018. Nutrition partners have managed more than 140,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition so far in 2018, about 41 per cent of their annual target.

74. As at 15 August, more than 6,000 cases of acute watery diarrhoea and cholera, 8,260 cases of malaria and nearly 6,330 cases of measles were reported. However, the number of cholera and measles cases is significantly lower than the previous year, due to immunization campaigns conducted in 2017 and 2018. More than 1.8 million consultations were conducted by health cluster partners between January and July. Routine vaccinations for tuberculosis, tetanus and measles are under way.

75. Approximately 2.6 million people are estimated to be displaced internally. Internally displaced persons constitute nearly half of the people in need and are largely dependent on aid. Durable solutions to displacement remain a priority. Forced evictions of internally displaced persons have continued to surge in 2018, affecting an estimated 205,000 individuals by mid-August, which is above the 200,000 reported during all of 2017.

76. Access remains a challenge in several areas owing to insecurity, bureaucratic and administrative impediments, as well as limited logistical infrastructure. In addition, *Gu* rains further impeded access, particularly in riverine areas of HirShabelle and Jubaland. A dedicated helicopter has been mobilized to reach flood-affected areas.

77. Humanitarian response resources are limited. To mitigate the impact, a flood response plan was launched in May to raise $80 million. The aim of the plan is to capitalize on prevailing moisture conditions and address the food insecurity situation, which has been exacerbated by protracted drought. The Central Emergency Response Fund and the Somalia Humanitarian Fund have provided resources to kick-start the

response to the drought in the north and the flood in southern and central areas of Somalia.

## VII. United Nations presence in Somalia

78. United Nations entities continue to be present in Baidoa, Beledweyne, Boosaaso, Dhobley, Doolow, Gaalkacyo, Garoowe, Hargeisa, Kismaayo and Mogadishu. UNSOM and UNSOS negotiated a land lease agreement with the Galmudug Administration to establish an integrated United Nations office in Dhusamareb. Meanwhile, it was agreed to open an interim office within the governmental compound in Dhusamareb for the prompt deployment of UNSOM personnel. In July, UNSOM initiated the phased relocation of its Beledweyne office to Jowhar, to reflect its mandate to be present in all federal member state capitals. As at 29 August, 152 international and 75 national personnel had been deployed throughout Somalia.

79. The integration of the UNSOM "Somaliland" office and the regional coordination office in Hargeisa occurred on 1 June, with the new office located in the United Nations common compound, thereby further promoting a "One United Nations" approach in "Somaliland".

## VIII. Observations

80. The Federal Government continues to promote a positive agenda, which merits the investment and support of the international community. However, numerous serious risks remain, including violent extremism, armed conflicts, political turbulence, spillover effects from the disputes in the wider Red Sea region and the possibility of further humanitarian crises. Improving people's lives must be the guiding principle when addressing those challenges, and in that regard the unity of Somali stakeholders is imperative to attract the continued support of the international community. I count on United Nations entities on the ground to work with all partners to help build trust among all stakeholders.

81. In my previous report, I expressed my concern at the implications that the crisis surrounding the Speaker of the House of the People in the Federal Parliament would have on the overall political progress in Somalia. I welcome the resolution of that crisis in May and the peaceful election and inauguration of a new Speaker. I urge the Federal Parliament to develop expeditiously a work plan for the adoption of priority legislation that is essential in order to make progress on deepening federalism, completing the review of the constitution and preparing for elections in 2020 and 2021. I welcome the progress made towards reaching several important milestones, including initial agreements on the electoral model and the sharing of natural resource, made at the meeting of the National Security Council from 3 to 5 June. In that regard, I pay tribute to the leadership of the Federal Government, federal member states and Benaadir Regional Administration and urge them to uphold their commitment to overcoming their differences and to define collectively the federal system. I also commend the work of the Federalization Negotiation Technical Committee for facilitating informed discussions in that regard.

82. I welcome the outcome of the high-level security meeting on Somalia held on 2 May and the Somalia Partnership Forum on 16 and 17 July, at which international partners expressed their strong commitment to supporting peace and prosperity, in a spirit of mutual accountability. That spirit should guide us until the next Forum in December 2018, around a set of clear and concrete deliverables, particularly those in the IMF Staff Monitored Programme, the implementation of the Federal Government's political road map, the national security architecture and the transition

plan. The finalization and adoption of the draft electoral law is key to set the path toward multiparty elections in 2020. Making tangible progress against those deliverables will also require: (a) formalizing the status of federal member states; (b) defining the allocation of powers, intergovernmental relations, resource-sharing and fiscal federalism through the constitutional review process; (c) accelerating the implementation of the national security architecture; and (d) finalizing the justice and corrections federal model. A priority is for Parliament to resume and organize the legislative agenda around a clear set of priorities.

83. I remain concerned at the destabilizing effects of tensions affecting the wider Red Sea region on Somalia. I call upon all stakeholders, including the international partners of Somalia, to work in a constructive spirit to support the development of a federal system and institutions within the mutual commitments agreed at the Somalia Partnership Forum.

84. At the same time, the positive regional dynamics emerging in the Horn of Africa in recent months and the expected positive peace and security implications are encouraging. The commitment made by the President of Somalia and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia to improving bilateral relations is a significant development. I also welcome President Farmajo's visit to Eritrea. The announcement by the two countries to establish diplomatic relations and promote bilateral trade and investment will hopefully nurture partnerships in a region long devastated by mistrust and war. I call on Somalia and its neighbouring countries to further improve relationships, including through the platform of IGAD, in the areas of economy, development, investment and security for mutual benefit.

85. I am deeply concerned at the military standoff between Puntland and "Somaliland" forces and militias near Tukaraq that has escalated into armed conflict. Heavy armed clashes play into the hands of violent extremists, deplete scarce resources needed to meet the basic needs of the people and induce mass displacement of civilians who are already severely affected by a dire humanitarian situation. Political leaders should set an example by resolving their differences through dialogue. I fully support my Special Representative's efforts and the joint IGAD-UNSOM mediation initiative, and encourage all actors to provide space for the mediation efforts towards a negotiated resolution and to continue to refrain from fighting. I also strongly encourage Somalia and "Somaliland" to resume talks on outstanding issues, such as airspace control, development assistance, boundaries and long-term reconciliation.

86. I urge the leaders of Somalia to implement swiftly the national security architecture, in particular the integration of regional forces into the police and the Somali National Army, the delineation of roles and responsibilities between the various federal and regional security services, and the establishment in further detail of the principles on the command and control, size, distribution and financing of the security sector. The creation of a financial tracking system for the Somalia security sector, as decided at the Somalia Partnership Forum, is a welcome development. It constitutes the essential basis for Somalis to take over successfully security responsibilities and to strengthen protection for the population.

87. I urge also the Federal Government and federal member states to accelerate implementation of the transition plan in an inclusive manner, involving all its partners. I call upon Member States to align their support to implement the plan, and call upon all parties to respect the protection of civilians and uphold international human rights and humanitarian law. The coming few months will be essential for the implementation of the first phase of the plan, which requires concerted efforts from all involved.

88. I welcome the adoption of Security Council resolution 2431 (2018), which extends the mandate of AMISOM until 31 May 2019 and in which the Council decided to authorize AMISOM to reconfigure the Mission, to effectively support implementation of the transition plan and to support the emerging capacity of Somali security institutions and forces. Their efforts, along with strengthened accountability, must be accompanied by more predictable funding by the international community and the provision of force enablers and multipliers.

89. I remain concerned at the level of corruption and the role of untraceable money in Somali economic and political affairs. Progress on public financial management and financial governance is encouraging, as is the intent of the Prime Minister to advance the entire corruption agenda. I urge the Federal Government to broaden those gains by identifying objectives, practical steps and measurable benchmarks to improve transparency and accountability in key sectors, for example relating to property rights and procurement, including in the security sector, as well as the conduct of political business and expectations of Members of Parliament.

90. I am deeply concerned at the recent attacks by Al-Shabaab and ISIL. The attacks on key ministries in Mogadishu represent clear attempts to undermine the path towards peace and stability for Somalia. Somalis and government authorities remain undeterred by those acts, and the United Nations will remain by their side, continuing support to immediately restore the functionality of the ministries and to enhance security. To reduce the threat and capability of Al-Shabaab, it will be vital to implement the national security architecture in Mogadishu and throughout the country, with clear command and control mechanisms and payment of security forces. It is equally important to forge general trust and accountability between government authorities, security forces and the civilian population.

91. I welcome the visit to Mogadishu on 8 May by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea, during which it, inter alia, considered the issue of weapons and ammunition management. I encourage the Federal Government to endorse the draft weapons and ammunition legislation under review.

92. The high number of children being forcibly recruited by Al-Shabaab remains alarming. There is an urgent need to strengthen the legal framework on counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism and to support the reintegration of young disengaged combatants and young people at risk at the community level, to prevent them from joining the group. Women can also play a vital role in motivating voluntary disengagement of Al-Shabaab members.

93. An independent, comprehensive review of UNSOS is currently under way to examine the conditions for success and inform strategic dialogue with Member States on UNSOS effectiveness. The review will focus on mission management and support issues while reconciling competing demands from different clients, reviewing lines of accountability, determining a viable exit strategy and identifying better performance models. It will examine the support UNSOS will provide in realizing my Special Representative's strategic, integrated vision in Somalia. Meanwhile, I am concerned at the low levels of funding of the trust funds of AMISOM and the Somali National Army, and I appeal to Member States to consider making contributions to them.

94. The over-reliance on air deliveries continues to deplete UNSOS resources, and is unsustainable. I therefore encourage contingents to prioritize opening and using main supply routes, particularly those essential to improving the humanitarian situation, that may include commercial goods essential to meeting the basic needs of civilians and those critical for logistical support to AMISOM.

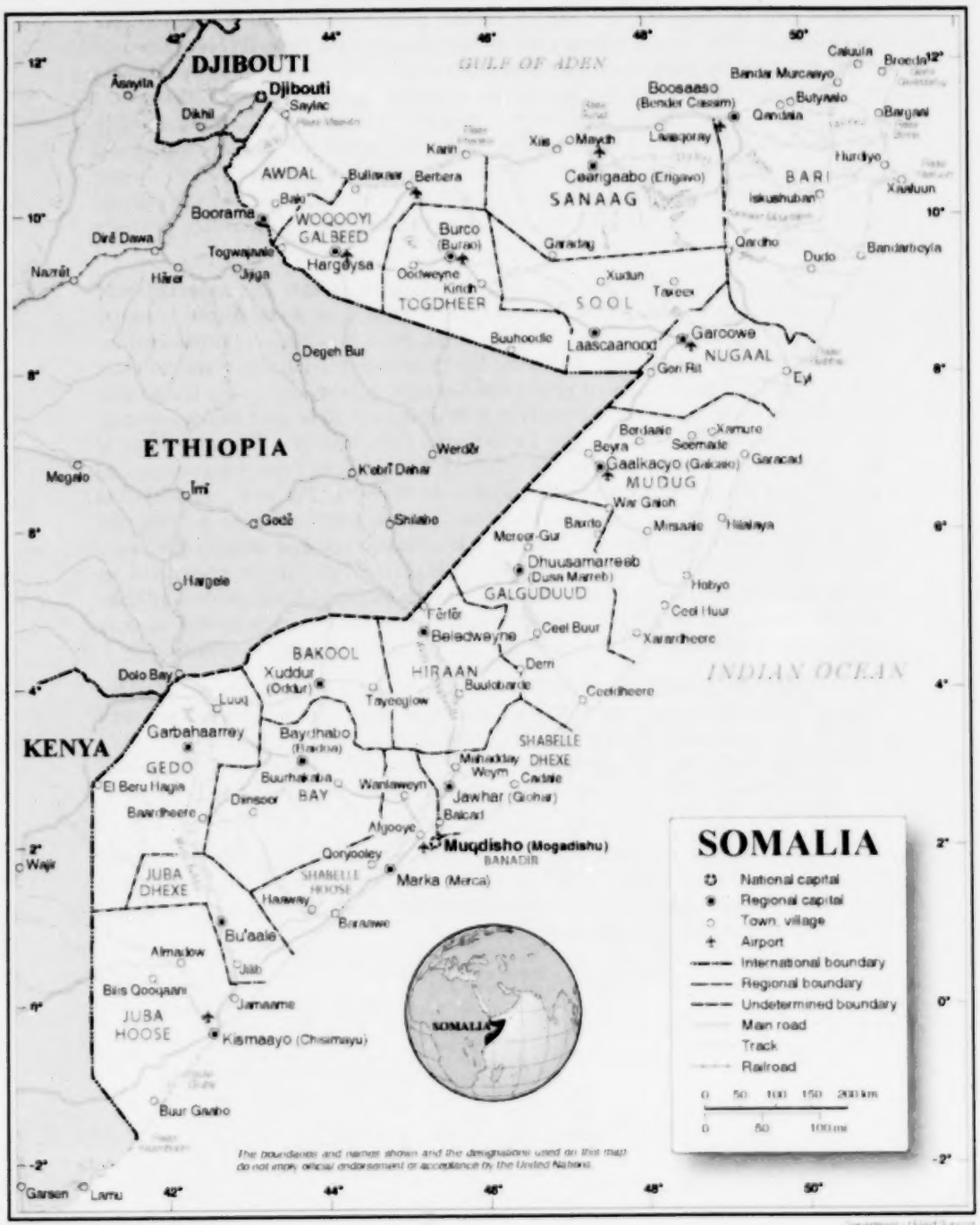
95. I am concerned that the conflict continues to exact a heavy toll on civilians. I also remain extremely concerned at the scale of sexual abuse and assaults on girls and women and the ongoing practice of female genital mutilation. I welcome the endorsement of the sexual offenses bill by the cabinet of the Federal Government — a milestone for the protection of women in the country — and encourage Parliament to bring the bill swiftly into law. In addition, I remain concerned at the conflict-related sexual violence that continues to affect women and girls, in particular those living in settlements for internally displaced persons, and call on the Federal Government and its partners to augment and expedite preventative measures to ensure Somali women and girls can live their lives in safety and dignity. I also urge the Somali national security forces to unite their efforts and play a leading role in protecting civilians from suffering.

96. Somalia continues to bear the brunt of climatic shocks. The unprecedented drought spanning more than four consecutive poor rainy seasons has displaced nearly 1.6 million people since the start of 2017, mainly from rural areas to urban centres. From 2005 to date, internal displacement has more than tripled. There are currently 2.6 million internally displaced persons in Somalia, pointing to a very low rate or return to areas of origin. Record levels of rainfall in 2018 have seen Somalia emerge from drought, only to have flooding expose other vulnerabilities. The acute crisis of 2017 and sudden onset emergencies of 2018 call for long-term interventions to address the drivers of chronic vulnerability in Somalia. The new recovery and resilience framework for Somalia aims to build support for resilience-building and durable solutions to climate-induced shocks. It estimates that over three to five years, $810 million will be needed to deliver on the highest priority interventions and set Somalia on the path to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Meanwhile, the Somalia humanitarian response plan remains significantly underfunded at only 36.5 per cent. Resources for the remainder of the year are urgently required.

97. I thank the African Union, AMISOM, IGAD, the European Union, Member States, non-governmental organizations and other development partners for their support for the peacebuilding and State-building agenda in Somalia. We must continue to strengthen our partnership. I pay tribute to AMISOM and the Somali security forces for their bravery and for the sacrifices they continue to make in Somalia.

98. I pay tribute to my Special Representative, Michael Keating, my two Deputy Special Representatives and the staff of UNSOM, the head and staff of UNSOS and the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Somalia for their continued hard work in very challenging conditions.

## Annex


DJIBOUTI
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GULF OF ADEN
Boosaaso
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Bandar Murcayo
Caluula
Broeda
Qandala
Bargaal
Lasqoray
Xiis
Mayth
Karin
Hurdiyo
Xarfuun
Iskushuban
AWDAL
Bullahawa
Berbera
Baki
Boorama
WOQOOYI
GALBEED
Cerigaabo (Erigavo)
SANAAG
BARI
Burco
(Burao)
Garadag
Qardho
Duduo
Bandarbeyla
Dire Dawa
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Hargeysa
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TOGDHEER
Xudun
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SOOL
Nazrêt
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ETHIOPIA
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Gaalkacyo (Galcaio)
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MUDUG
Megalo
Imi
War Gaiah
Gode
Shilabo
Mereer-Gur
Baxdo
Mirsaale
Hiiraiya
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(Dusa Marreb)
Hargele
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GALGUDUUD
Ceel Huur
Tërër
Beledweyne
Ceel Buur
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BAKOOL
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(Oddur)
HIRAAN
Dem
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Luuq
Tayeeglow
Ceeldheere
INDIAN OCEAN
KENYA
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(Hadiya)
SHABELLE
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Mahaddey
Weyne
Cadale
GEDO
El Beru Haya
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Dinsoor
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Balcad
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BANADIR
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SHABELLE
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Marka (Merca)
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Barawe
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Jilib
Bais Qooqaani
Jamaame
JUBA
HOOSE
Kismaayo (Chisimayu)
SOMALIA
Buur Gaabo
Garsen
Lamu
SOMALIA
National capital
Regional capital
Town, village
Airport
International boundary
Regional boundary
Undetermined boundary
Main road
Track
Railroad
0 50 100 150 200 km
0 50 100 mi
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

United Nations S/2018/801

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 August 2018
English
Original: Spanish

# Letter dated 30 August 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 30 August 2018 in which the President of the Republic of Colombia, Iván Duque Márquez, requests, on behalf of the Government of Colombia and the People's Alternative Revolutionary Force (FARC), the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2366 (2017) (see annex). I should be grateful if you would transmit the attached letter to the members of the Security Council and have it circulated as a document of the Council.

*(Signed)* Maria Emma **Mejía**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-14445 (E) 040918 040918

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## Annex to the letter dated 30 August 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, whose function is to verify implementation of sections 3.2 and 3.4 of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, in accordance with section 6.3.3 of the Final Agreement concerning the social, economic and political reintegration of former combatants of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia — People's Army (FARC-EP) and individual and collective security and protection measures for communities and organizations in the various regions of Colombia.

We wish to thank the United Nations for supporting the peacebuilding process in Colombia with a view to ensuing that the provisions of the Peace Agreement are promptly implemented. In accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 2366 (2017), in which the Security Council "expresses its willingness to work with the Government of Colombia to extend the mandate of the Verification Mission on the basis of agreement between the parties", we, the National Government and the People's Alternative Revolutionary Force (FARC), have agreed to request that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Verification Mission for a further year, effective 27 September 2018.

On behalf of Colombia, I take this opportunity to reiterate to the members of the Security Council, and to the United Nations as a whole, that we are grateful for their ongoing support for the peacebuilding process in our country.

(*Signed*) Iván **Duque Márquez**

United Nations S/2018/802

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 August 2018

Original: English

# Letter dated 28 August 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), whose mandate was established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2100 (2013) of 25 April 2013 and most recently extended in Council resolution 2423 (2018) of 28 June 2018.

Following the usual consultations, I would like to inform you of my intention to appoint Lieutenant General Dennis Gyllensporre (Sweden) as Force Commander of MINUSMA. Lieutenant General Gyllensporre will succeed Major General Jean-Paul Deconinck (Belgium), who will complete his tour of duty on 2 October 2018. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Major General Deconinck for his contribution to MINUSMA.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

18-14363 (E) 310818

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United Nations S/2018/803

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 August 2018

Original: English

# Letter dated 30 August 2018 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 28 August 2018 (S/2018/802) concerning your intention to appoint Lieutenant General Dennis Gyllensporre (Sweden) as Force Commander of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Karen **Pierce**
President of the Security Council

18-14364 (E) 310818

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United Nations S/2018/804

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 August 2018

Original: English

# Letter dated 28 August 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the fifty-ninth monthly report of the Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) (see annex). The report covers the period from 24 July to 23 August 2018.

I welcome the confirmation by the Director General that the OPCW Technical Secretariat has verified the destruction of all 27 chemical weapons production facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic. As I stated in my previous letter (S/2018/745), the long-awaited completion of the issue constitutes an important step towards the full implementation of resolution 2118 (2013).

As the Council was previously informed, in July 2018, the OPCW Technical Secretariat received a note verbale from the Syrian Arab Republic containing responses to the non-exhaustive list of questions attached to a letter dated 10 April 2018 from the Director General regarding the outstanding issues related to the chemical weapons declaration by the Syrian Arab Republic. The responses are still being analysed by the Declaration Assessment Team of OPCW, and the results of the analysis will be reported in due course.

On 6 July 2018, the OPCW fact-finding mission in the Syrian Arab Republic issued an interim report on the alleged 7 April 2018 incident in Duma. On 7 August 2018, the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Syrian Arab Republic that provided comments on the interim report. I look forward to the final report of the fact-finding mission regarding this incident.

During the reporting period, the fact-finding mission requested and was provided with documents pertaining to four reported incidents currently under investigation by the National Authority of the Syrian Arab Republic: two incidents in Khirbat Masasinah (7 July 2017 and 4 August 2017), one incident in Salamiyah (9 August 2017) and another in Suran (8 November 2017).

I welcome the efforts of the OPCW fact-finding mission in studying all available information regarding these incidents.

As previously stated, I take note of the decision taken on 27 June 2018 by the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, at its fourth special session, in which the Conference requested, inter alia, that the OPCW Technical Secretariat put in place arrangements to identify the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. I further take note that the



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Director General will provide the next progress report on the matter to the Executive Council at its eighty-ninth session.

No circumstances exist that can justify the use of chemical weapons, by any party. It is imperative that those who disregard this must therefore be identified and held to account.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

## Annex

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled "Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme", prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Executive Council Decision EC-M-33/DEC.1 and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), both dated 27 September 2013, for transmission to the Security Council (see enclosure). My report covers the period from 24 July 2018 to 23 August 2018 and also covers the reporting requirements of Executive Council decision EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013.

(*Signed*) Fernando **Arias**

## Enclosure

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

### Note by the Director General

### Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

#### Background

1. In accordance with subparagraph 2(f) of the decision by the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") at its Thirty-Third Meeting (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") is to report to the Council on a monthly basis regarding the implementation of that decision. In accordance with paragraph 12 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the report by the Secretariat is also to be submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General.

2. The Council, at its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled "Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons and Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities" (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013). In paragraph 22 of that decision, the Council decided that the Secretariat should report on its implementation "in conjunction with its reporting required by subparagraph 2(f) of Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1".

3. The Council, at its Forty-Eighth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled "Reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria" (EC-M-48/DEC.1, dated 4 February 2015) noting the Director-General's intent to include reports of the OPCW Fact Finding Mission in Syria (FFM), along with information on the Council's discussion thereof, as part of the monthly reporting pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). Similarly, the Council, at its Eighty-First Session, adopted a decision entitled "Report by the Director-General Regarding the Declaration and Related Submissions by the Syrian Arab Republic" (EC-81/DEC.4, dated 23 March 2016), noting the Director General's intent to provide information on the implementation of that decision.

4. The Council, at its Eighty-Third Session, adopted a decision entitled "OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism Reports on Chemical Weapons Use in the Syrian Arab Republic" (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016). In subparagraph 12(a) of that decision, the Council decided that the Director-General shall "regularly inform the Council on the implementation of this decision and incorporate information regarding the implementation of this decision into his monthly reporting to the United Nations Security Council, through the United Nations Secretary-General, regarding EC-M-33/DEC.1".

5. This, the fifty-ninth monthly report, is therefore submitted in accordance with the aforementioned Council decisions and includes information relevant to the period from 24 July 2018 to 23 August 2018.

Progress achieved by the Syrian Arab Republic in meeting the requirements of Executive Council decisions EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-M-34/DEC.1

6. Progress by the Syrian Arab Republic is as follows:

(a) As stated in the previous report (EC-89/DG.1, dated 24 July 2018), the Secretariat has verified the destruction of all 27 chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) declared by the Syrian Arab Republic.

(b) On 16 August 2018, the Syrian Arab Republic submitted to the Council its fifty seventh monthly report (EC-89/P/NAT.2, dated 16 August 2018) regarding activities on its territory related to the destruction of its CWPFs, as required by paragraph 19 of EC M 34/DEC.1.

Progress in the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons by States Parties hosting destruction activities

7. As stated in previous reports, all of the chemicals declared by the Syrian Arab Republic that were removed from its territory in 2014 have been destroyed.

Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to Executive Council decisions EC-81/DEC.4 and EC-83/DEC.5

8. During the reporting period, the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) continued its efforts to clarify all outstanding issues regarding the initial declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with paragraph 3 of Council decision EC-81/DEC.4 and paragraph 6 of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5.

9. As stated in the previous report (EC-89/DG.1), on 10 July the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Syrian Arab Republic with responses to the questions attached to the Director-General's letter to the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, Dr Faisal Mekdad, dated 10 April 2018. These questions pertain to the chemical weapons-related activities conducted at the Scientific Studies and Research Centre (SSRC). The DAT is currently analysing the answers provided in the note verbale and will report the results of this analysis to the Council in due course.

10. In accordance with paragraph 10 of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5, the Secretariat is in the process of planning the inspections at the sites identified by the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism in its third and fourth reports. The Secretariat also continues to monitor the security situation through the United Nations Department of Safety and Security to identify permissive security conditions for those inspections.

11. Pursuant to paragraph 11 of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5, the Secretariat is in the process of planning the next inspections to be conducted at the Barzah and Jamrayah facilities of the SSRC.

Other activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic

12. The United Nations Office for Project Services continues to provide support to the OPCW mission in the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with the Tripartite Agreement.

13. As at the cut-off date of this report, one OPCW staff member was deployed as part of the OPCW mission in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Supplementary resources

14. As previously reported, the Trust Fund for Syria Missions was established in November 2015 to support the OPCW FFM and other remaining activities, such as those of the DAT. As at the cut-off date of this report, total contributions to this fund stood at EUR 17.1 million. Contribution agreements had been concluded with Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Monaco, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the European Union.

**Activities carried out with respect to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria**

15. Guided by Council decisions EC-M-48/DEC.1 and EC-M-50/DEC.1 (dated 23 November 2015), as well as by United Nations Security Council resolution 2209 (2015), the FFM continues to study all available information relating to the allegations of use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

16. On 6 July, the Secretariat issued a Note entitled "Interim Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria Regarding the Incident of Alleged Use of Toxic Chemicals as a Weapon in Douma, Syrian Arab Republic, on 7 April 2018" (S/1645/2018, dated 6 July 2018 and Corr.1, dated 10 July 2018). On 7 August, the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Syrian Arab Republic that provided comments on the interim report. The FFM continues to collect and analyse information with regard to the alleged use of toxic chemicals as a weapon in Douma and will provide a final report on its findings in due course.

17. On 20 July 2018, the Secretariat issued a Note entitled: "Update on the OPCW Fact Finding Mission in Syria" (S/1654/2018, 20 July 2018) providing responses to the questions submitted in writing by the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Belarus under subitem 6(g) "Technical Secretariat's activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria" of the agenda of the Eighty-Eighth Session of the Council.

18. During the reporting period, the FFM requested and was provided with documents pertaining to four reported incidents currently under investigation by the National Authority of the Syrian Arab Republic: two incidents in Kharbit Masasnah on 7 July 2017 and 4 August 2017, respectively, one incident in Al-Salamiyah on 9 August 2017, and another in Souran on 8 November 2017. The FFM is currently translating and analysing the information contained in these documents.

**Activities related to the use of chemical weapons in Syria carried out by the Secretariat with respect to decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 of the Conference of the States Parties at its Fourth Special Session**

19. The Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter "the Conference") at its Fourth Special Session adopted a decision entitled "Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use" (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018) which, inter alia, addressed the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. In paragraph 8 of the decision, the Conference encouraged the Director General to continue to provide regular updates on the FFM's operations, taking into account the need to protect the security and safety of Secretariat personnel.

20. In paragraph 10 of the decision, the Conference decided that the Secretariat shall put in place arrangements to identify the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic by identifying and reporting on all information potentially relevant to the origin of those chemical weapons in those instances in which the FFM in Syria determines or has determined that use or likely use occurred, and cases for which the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism has not issued a report. The Conference further decided, in paragraph 12, that the Secretariat shall preserve and provide information to the investigation mechanism established by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 71/248 (2016), as well as to any relevant investigatory entities established under the auspices of the United Nations.

21. Pursuant to paragraph 24 of the decision, on 27 July the Director-General provided a report to States Parties and to the United Nations Secretary-General

on initial implementation of the decision (EC.89/DG.2, dated 27 July 2018). Also pursuant to paragraph 24 of the decision, the next progress report will be issued to the Council at its Eighty-Ninth Session.

**Conclusion**

22. The main focus of the future activities of the OPCW mission in the Syrian Arab Republic will be on the activities of the FFM; the implementation of Council decisions EC-83/DEC.5 and EC-81/DEC.4, including declaration-related issues; annual inspections of the underground structures already verified as destroyed; and implementation of Conference decision C-SS-4/DEC.3.

United Nations S/2018/805

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 September 2018

Original: English

# Letter dated 31 August 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to express my disappointment and regret that, notwithstanding the established practice and due to a unilateral decision, no meeting of the Security Council to discuss the situation in Kosovo and Metohija was convened in the month of August during the presidency of the United Kingdom. We firmly believe that the valuable work of the United Nations mission established by the Security Council in its resolution 1244 (1999) and the developments in the Province deserve to be heard by the Council members, as well as by the entire United Nations membership, especially at this important juncture in the dialogue between Belgrade and Priština.

I am also disappointed that discussions in respect of the Security Council meetings on Kosovo and Metohija, in which my delegation was ready to engage fully and in good faith, have not been continued as indicated following the adoption of the programme of work for the month of August.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated to all the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Milan **Milanović**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-14621 (E) 050918

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United Nations S/2018/806

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 September 2018
English
Original: Russian

# Letter dated 31 August 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for 30 and 31 August 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

18-14652 (E) 050918 070918

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## Annex to the letter dated 31 August 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (30 August 2018)

### Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The number of violations of the ceasefire regime by illegal armed groups active in the Idlib de-escalation area has remained high.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 27 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 15 in Aleppo, 10 in Ladhiqiyah and 2 in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has reported two incidents of gunfire: one in Aleppo Governorate and one in Hama Governorate.

### Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has carried out two humanitarian operations: in Jubb al-Jarrah, Hama Governorate; and Tall Abu Susah, Aleppo Governorate.

In total, 1,912 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,949.71 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 334 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 91,074 residents.

### Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

# Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (31 August 2018)

### Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The number of violations of the ceasefire regime by illegal armed groups active in the Idlib de-escalation area has continued to increase.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 27 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 12 in Aleppo, 12 in Ladhiqiyah, 2 in Idlib and 1 in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has reported six incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: two in Idlib, two in Ladhiqiyah, one in Aleppo and one in Hama.

### Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has carried out two humanitarian operations:

- In Duma, Damascus Governorate, 400 food parcels weighing 1.7 tons were distributed.
- In Khusham, Dayr al-Zawr Governorate, 450 food parcels weighing 1.9 tons were distributed.

In total, 1,914 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,953.31 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 117 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 91,191 residents.

### Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.